

# **Community Issues Report**

*FIRST QUARTER 2013*

Meredith Corporation  
*WHNS FOX Carolina*

*04/9/13*

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**WHNS Fox Carolina**

*COMMUNITY ISSUES*  
01/01/13 – 03/31/13

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**Consumer, Health & Safety**

An interest in knowing about events that impact our daily lives. A need for information about how to be wise shoppers of goods and services and how to live healthy and safe lives.

**Crime**

A need to know about crime and law enforcement activities and a concern for personal safety.

**Education**

A concern about the money and skills needed to improve schools and an interest in improving student's quality of education.

**Environment**

A concern for how the environment is affected by human activity.

**Government**

An interest in how government affects our personal lives

**Jobs/Economy/Growth**

An interest in the local and national economic outlook and the impact growth has on our communities

**Quality of Life**

An interest in things that improve one's satisfaction with life.

The following pages list representative samples of program segments from The Ten O'clock Newscast and The Morning Newscast during this quarter that respond to our ascertained issues. Each segment was 20 seconds to 3 minutes in length (except as otherwise reported).

The following pages also identify issue-responsive episodes of programs, which are listed under the appropriate issue.

WHNS also broadcasts public service announcements, news and weather cut-ins as needed to inform local community of breaking news and emergencies.

## *Attachments*



## *Consumer, Health & Safety*

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED  
FIRST QUARTER 2013**

Problem/Need: **CONSUMER, HEALTH & SAFETY**


<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
Saturdays (airs weekly)	6:30am	TODAY'S HOMEOWNER

Description: A half-hour weekly television show that features information on how to maintain and improve your home, both inside and out. The approach to home improvement helps everyone from the experienced do-it-yourselfer to the first time homeowner. Projects are taken from start to finish in each weekly episode. (30:00)

**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS AIRED:**

- Upstate Heart Walk
- Heart Ball (both American Heart Association)
- Child Safety Car Seats
- Lead Poisoning Prevention
- Food Safety, CPR, Asthma Awareness
- Stroke Awareness, Autism Awareness

Jan. 8, 2013

Several organizations are trying to convince South Carolina lawmakers to expand Medicaid rolls in the state despite objections from Gov. Nikki Haley. Health care advocates held sessions Tuesday in Columbia arguing that Medicaid expansion is an investment in the economy, the health of its people, and will also boost jobs. The federal-state program covers the poor and disabled. Lathran Woodard of the South Carolina Primary Care  Association says people with access to health care are more productive workers. The federal government says it will pay the full cost of the expansion through 2016. Haley and her Medicaid director say the state can't afford to pay for the match after that. They want to opt out of any expansion, but the decision is up to lawmakers in the General Assembly.

Jan. 9, 2013

A legislative panel will consider changes to make it tougher to manufacture meth, including requiring a prescription for cold remedies containing one of the main ingredients. A House committee is meeting Wednesday to discuss recommendations for the 2013 legislative session, which begins Jan. 30. Among the

possibilities is requiring a prescription for cold medicines containing pseudoephedrine, a key ingredient in making meth. Pharmacies now must enter customers into a national database when they buy cold medicine containing pseudoephedrine. The database blocks the sale if the person has gone on a buying spree for the drug. The committee also will consider increasing penalties for manufacturing meth when children are present. Meth is a potent stimulant that can be cooked up from over-the-counter household products, often leaving behind a toxic mess.

Jan. 10, 2013

South Carolina's top law enforcement officer says having a police officer in every school in the state is a must. State Law Enforcement Division Chief Mark Keel told senators Thursday that's his top recommendation for ensuring school safety after last month's massacre at a Connecticut elementary school. How to pay for the idea is up for debate. Keel opposes arming school employees. He says even those with concealed weapon permits have limited training. Keel also says it would create confusion, because officers responding to a shooting would not be able to identify the bad guys if employees in civilian clothes have guns. But state schools chief Mick Zais says whether to allow a few highly trained employees to carry a gun should be a local decision.

Jan. 11, 2013

State health officials said at least 22 people have died from influenza in South Carolina since the fall. That compares with a single death in the last flu season. The Department of Health and Environmental Control said three people have died in Greenville and Lexington counties. There have been two deaths in Aiken, Oconee, Richland and York counties. Nineteen of the deaths have involved people at least age 65. Two of the victims were between 50 and 64 and one was a 4-year-old. Doctors say a flu shot is the best defense from the illness. The anti-viral drug Tamiflu can lessen the effects of flu if given when symptoms begin. In North Carolina, health officials said 17 people have died since October.

Jan. 15, 2013

While many families prepare for guests and holiday meals one Anderson family is reflecting on their Christmas miracles this year, including a gift from another local family. Three-year-old Madilyn Jordan has fought all odds to survive after she was diagnosed with liver cancer at age 1, spending much of her life in hospitals. "They pretty much in Greenville said that she had all the chemo she could have and that was pretty much it," Christ Jordan, Madilyn's father said. "They said she would live about two months. But we didn't give up on her." "You never expect to hear those words - cancer," Madilyn's mom Kristy Jordan told FOX Carolina. "And when they told us that, they said that she had a 50-50 chance." Recently, Madilyn's parents' prayers were answered when she traveled to Cincinnati for a liver transplant. They knew it would be a thankful but simple Christmas after most of their time, energy and resources had gone to Madilyn's recovery. Madilyn's story was passed along to Shannon Williams, who chose to adopt the Jordan family through the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program. "I don't know what God has planned for her, but he has an amazing little girl here on earth," Kristy Jordan said. "And he's got big plans for her. And I'm going to do everything I can in my power to make sure she does what God intends for her to do." The Jordan family said they were so thankful to Shannon Williams and everyone who has supported and prayed for them. They said Madilyn's progress and recovery looks better than they could have imagined. "This is really the gift that keeps on giving," Chris Jordan said. "And we feel like we've been given a new life with her."

Jan. 17, 2013

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley says the shooting rampage at a Connecticut elementary school should prompt discussions about mental health treatment, not anti-gun laws. The Republican governor said Thursday no amount of gun control can stop someone from getting a gun. But she says boosting mental health spending can hopefully detect and treat issues before people become violent. The mother of two says the death of 20 students and six teachers in Newtown, CT., last week was absolutely heartbreaking but should not lead to emotion-based decision-making. Haley's budget proposal for 2013-14 includes an additional \$11 million for the Department of Mental Health, on top of this year's increase. She says prior budget cuts decimated the agency, and lawmakers nationwide have put off dealing with mental health issues for too long.

Jan. 18, 2013

Some of the symptoms of a cold or an allergy flare-up can be a runny nose, a cough or watery eyes. In order to treat those symptoms, some customers use medicine that contain pseudoephedrine. To get those specific cold medicines, customers have to talk to a pharmacist who has a supply behind the counter. However, an Upstate lawmaker said many customers are buying the cold medicine to cook methamphetamine. "Meth, you take one time and you could be addicted, and it kills you," Sen. Mike Fair said. Fair represents the District Six area in Greenville and supports pseudoephedrine laws that are already in place, but said more needs to be done. "We limited the number of boxes a person could buy and records are being kept, but according to leadership and law enforcement in South Carolina, it isn't working," Fair said. The way the process works now is a customer must show a valid I.D. when buying pseudoephedrine. Then, a pharmacist puts the customer's information into a system called NPLEX that tracks the number of times a customer buys medicine with pseudoephedrine. If the system shows a green check, the sale can continue, but if it shows a red check, a pharmacist isn't allowed to sell the product to that customer. Fair said he's working on a new bill that will call for prescriptions for medicine with pseudoephedrine. "And we think that the results in South Carolina would be similar to that of a couple of other states," Fair said. Fair said the methamphetamine problem is growing and because addicts continue to illegally get pseudoephedrine, he said the state should come up with another deterrent. He said meth labs cost the state about \$1 million a year in cleanup fees. "The expense for lives and families is the greatest expense," Fair said. Fair said other states who adopted a prescription law for pseudoephedrine saw a decrease in meth-related crimes. Fair said he also wants to talk to members of the medical association about the bill to get their feedback on the proposal. He plans to introduce the bill in January, at the start of the next session. Similar legislation is in the works in North Carolina as well.

Jan. 28, 2013

Health officials say flu season is early this year -- and Carolinians are feeling the pain. It's already one of the worst flu seasons in a decade, and it's only going to get worse. The flu season usually hits in January and February. But 14 people already have died in North Carolina, while 13 people have died in South Carolina. Doctors' offices and emergency rooms in the Carolinas are filled with people suffering from flu-like symptoms, including muscles aches and high fever. North Carolina Health Department epidemiologist Dr. Megan Davies says this particular strain -- H3N2 -- is typically harder on older Americans than other ones. Other states are in the middle of outbreaks, including Alaska, New York and Mississippi.

Jan. 30, 2013

The American Red Cross of the Western Carolinas opened a shelter in Brevard because of flooding in the mountain town. According to the group's Facebook page, the shelter was opened at the Transylvania County Recreation Center at 1078 Ecusta Rd. The message said the shelter was opened after evacuations were advised in the Davidson River Road area because of rising waters. That is the same area where a woman was rescued from the roof of her car after being swept away by flood waters. Flash flood warnings were in effect for much of western North Carolina.

Feb. 1, 2013

A freight train derailed Friday morning along the tracks at the BMW Manufacturing plant in Greer, according to dispatchers. Spartanburg County officials said four cars of a Norfolk Southern train derailed sometime before 6 a.m. inside the BMW rail yard. They said no one was injured. A FOX Carolina iWitness said two of the trains only appeared to be tipped over, dangling off the tracks. There is no word yet what the train was carrying or how long it will take to clear the scene.

Feb. 5, 2013

Teenage birth rates in South Carolina dropped to the lowest level ever in 2012, according to the SC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. According to the group, birth rates for girls between 15 and 19 years old dropped 8 percent last year. Experts cited more teens choosing abstinence and contraceptives, more exposure of the issue of teen pregnancy, better sex education in schools and targeted efforts to 18- to 19-year-olds as reasons for the drop in birth rates. Despite the drop, Campaign CEO Forrest Alton said South Carolina still ranks 11th highest in the U.S. for teen births. "We cannot become complacent and think we have the problem solved," said Campaign CEO Forrest Alton. "There is clearly plenty of work left to be done." Alton said everyone in the state should play a role in prevention.

Feb. 8, 2013

State health officials said at least 22 people have died from influenza in South Carolina since the fall. That compares with a single death in the last flu season. The Department of Health and Environmental Control said three people have died in Greenville and Lexington counties. There have been two deaths in Aiken, Oconee, Richland and York counties. Nineteen of the deaths have involved people at least age 65. Two of the victims were between 50 and 64 and one was a 4-year-old. Doctors say a flu shot is the best defense from the illness. The anti-viral drug Tamiflu can lessen the effects of flu if given when symptoms begin. In North Carolina, health officials said 17 people have died since October.

Feb. 15, 2013

South Carolina's infant mortality rate is steady. The Department of Health and Environmental Control said Friday the state's rate in 2011 was 7.4 deaths per 1,000 babies born. DHEC Director Catherine Templeton says that's 12 percent better than five years ago, but more progress is needed. Officials say the mortality rate for white babies improved from 5.5 in 2010 to 5.0 last year. But non-white infants died at 2.4 times the rate as white babies in 2011, up from 2.0 times the deaths in 2010. More than 57,000 births were recorded in South Carolina in 2011,

but 423 infants died before their first birthday. Templeton says DHEC will keep focusing on ways to bring the mortality rate down, like promoting the use of folic acid to reduce congenital birth defects.

Feb. 22, 2013

Clemson University President Jim Barker says he has returned home after undergoing heart bypass surgery a week ago. In a letter Friday to Clemson faculty, students and supporters, Barker said his doctors are satisfied with his progress, but want him to continue to rest. Barker underwent quintuple coronary artery bypass surgery on Jan. 18, a day after blockages were discovered in some of his arteries. Barker says he is still limiting visitors and can't accept gifts of food because his diet is restricted. He says he had read every card and comment left on a special website and appreciates the prayers and concern he has received from the Clemson family. Provost Doris Helms is acting as Clemson's president while Barker recovers

Feb. 26, 2013

According to a study by the Natural Resources Defense Council, 40 percent of food in the United States goes uneaten. That statistic comes from all the losses, from farming, through packing, processing and distribution. A question that arises is how and why Americans waste food in their homes, and how can we preserve edibles and stretch dollars. Casey Vaughn is a web producer at FOX Carolina. She and her roommate, Whitney, let FOX Carolina's Dana Wachter into their kitchen to track their food waste for a week. The roommates often experiment with new recipes - some are a hit, others make for long-time leftovers. This week, Vaughn said her leftover crock-pot beer chicken will likely hit the garbage can, just like a Tupperware of week-old green beans. "A lot of the fresh produce will be buy one get one free, or two for five dollars. So it's like, we can eat two in a week, so let's buy them! Then we end up with four in our fridge, and we only eat one bag," said Vaughn. According to the NRDC study, fresh foods often go bad before they're eaten. Reasons for this range from whether people make too much, their family doesn't like what was bought, or people impulse buy or buy in bulk. Vaughn said these things happen to her. This week, she bought a large salad from Costco. She said she had been hungry and it was lunch time, so she bought the salad, expecting to eat it through the week. At the end of the week, half of it was tossed. The study says the average American throws out 50 percent more than the average American did in the 1950's. One reason for wasted foods may be misinterpreting label dates on packaging. Dr. Susan Barefoot is a retired food microbiologist and professor, now she works with Clemson extension, and sheds light on those confusing printed numbers. The "sell-by" date is the last day food can be sold, but there is still plenty of time for it to be eaten. The "use-by" is for the best quality, but the foods shouldn't be harmful for a time after that date. The expiration date is the last date the food should be eaten. Some foods, though, may last longer than the printed dates, like eggs. Barefoot said the texture may be different than if they were fresh, but "it's not a safety issue; it is a quality issue." Barefoot said foods like lettuce can keep in the fridge for a week. "There are some bacteria that can grow in the refrigerator, so keeping it much longer than that [and it] is a safety issue, too," said Barefoot. Barefoot said she's an expert on ways to make fresh foods last. Clemson extension teaches folks how to can their own fruits and veggies, in a pressure cooker or water canner. Many of those can last for a year or more. Barefoot said freezing is the safest way to keep fresh foods longest. It just may change the texture or nutritional quality of some foods. Wrapped tightly, foods, even milk or prepared casseroles or sauces, can last far longer. That can save costs, too, said Barefoot. The NRDC study found that the average family wastes between \$1,300 and \$2,200 of food a year.

Feb. 28, 2013

Investigators said they do not believe there is a serious health risk after a 5-year-old Greenville County boy died hours after exhibiting flu-like symptoms. Greenville County Deputy Coroner Barry Wright said Jeremiah Simmons, a Blythe Elementary Academy 4K student, was sent home from school Tuesday after he reported feeling ill and the nurse discovered he had a 101.3-degree fever. Simmons was not ill Monday and after he was sent home, his mother said he was lethargic, had no appetite and wanted to sleep, Wright said. He said she gave Simmons over-the-counter fever medication and checked on him periodically, until she found him unresponsive about 7 p.m. Wright said when paramedics responded, Simmons was in cardiac arrest and ultimately died at Greenville Memorial Hospital about 15 minutes later. During a news conference Thursday, Wright said tests ruled out meningitis and myocarditis, which are infections of the brain and heart respectively. He said more tests will be conducted by the state Health Department to determine what may have killed Simmons. Wright said Simmons had previous health conditions, including enlarged tonsils and an edema in the back of his throat, which cause his airway to close. He said the boy also had a history of seizures associated with high fevers. Simmons' mother did everything she could to care for the child, Wright said. Wright said Simmons' death does not appear to be an allergic reaction to medication because he exhibited symptoms before taking the medication. Wright urged the public and anyone who goes to Blythe or Simmons' church, where he sang in the choir, to see a doctor immediately if they show any symptoms, no matter how minor. Greenville County School officials said the symptoms were running nose, coughs, headaches or fever. Wright said the school is safe because officials followed proper decontamination procedures.

Mar. 1, 2013

The American Heart Association is urging everyone to wear red on Feb. 1 for National Wear Red Day, which marks the first day of American Heart Month. The annual campaign, which is celebrating its 10th year on Friday, was created to bring awareness to the No. 1 killer of women - heart disease. According to the American Heart Association, heart disease continues to kill more women than all cancers combined. However, thanks to this initiative and increased awareness, the American Heart Association says 21 percent fewer women are dying because of the disease. In addition to making a donation, a few local businesses are offering up ways to support the community and the cause. Mimi's Cafe, off Woodruff Road in Greenville, is offering a free cup of their signature soup to any customer wearing the color red all day Friday. Going forward, every Tuesday throughout the month of February, as a show of appreciation, the restaurant is also offering a complimentary cup of Mimi's hot and savory soup with a donation of \$1 or \$5. A \$5 donation also comes with a limited-edition sparkle red dress lapel pin, with 100 percent of all donations going directly to the American Heart Association. Mimi's general manager, Mike Lamb, says it's important for local businesses to get involved in such an important cause. "Not only are we thrilled to help bring awareness to this serious cause, but are thrilled to be able to provide our community with a way to participate locally." He said Mimi's restaurants throughout the country are attempting to raise \$200,000 by the end of February. National department store Macy's, which has been a sponsor of National Wear Red Day since it began, will also be hosting a special Go Red sale. The sale offers 10 to 20 percent off on select merchandise now through Feb. 3, with all proceeds benefiting the American Heart Association.

Mar. 4, 2013

Using food stamps to buy items like soda in South Carolina could become a thing of the past if an effort by some state officials is successful. Leaders with the Department of Health and Environmental Control and the Department of Social Services think it's possible they could get soda taken off of that list here if they start off with a small test population. State officials want to make it clear - they aren't proposing a "ban" on soda. They don't

have a problem with vending machines where you can choose to drink whatever you like - and the money people are spending hasn't been given to you by the government. DHEC Director Catherine Templeton said the state needs a change, with more than 1.5 million people in South Carolina considered obese, which is about one third of the state's population. She's aiming for change starting with people who use food stamps. "We're not trying to prevent people from exercising their free choice, that's fine," Templeton said. "But I don't think its appropriate for the federal government to spend \$2 billion a year on sugar-added drinks than have to pay the hundreds of billions of health costs that are caused by the obesity epidemic." Changing the requirements of items eligible for food stamps - soda in particular - has been tried by many states in the past and failed. An article on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's website said it is hard to rule out individual food items in people's diets stating, "foods" contain many components that can affect health, and diets contain many foods. As a result, it is challenging to determine whether - and the point at which - the presence or absence of desirable nutrients outweighs the presence of nutrients to be avoided in ruling a food 'in' or 'out.'" But Templeton said when it comes to soda, it's a no brainer. And she thinks South Carolina could serve as the perfect testing grounds for the country using Bamberg, Fairfield and Lee counties for initial trial runs. "It seems very intuitive that we should not be paying for empty calories, if we can show them on a small scale, then possibility they'll allow us to do a waiver on a large scale, maybe even change the law," Templeton said. Some agree with the idea while others think it's pointless to only restrict soda. But DHEC said they'd like to ban using food stamps to buy all "empty calorie foods" if the USDA would approve it. There are already some items that cannot be bought with food stamps including alcohol and tobacco products, nonfood items like pet or cleaning products, vitamins and medicines and hot foods.

Mar. 7, 2013

South Carolina's Medicaid agency will begin fully reimbursing rural hospitals this October for treating people without health insurance Gov. Nikki Haley and Medicaid director Tony Keck touted the shift Thursday as a way to stabilize rural hospitals that struggle to stay open. Haley says the policy focuses support on hot spots of poor health. But Democratic Rep. James Smith says it pits urban hospitals against rural ones. The state has distributed its \$461 million Medicaid fund for uncompensated care to hospitals equally. That covers 60 percent of their costs. Now 19 hospitals will be reimbursed 100 percent. Haley first announced the policy change in her State of the State address. Her news conference to explain the change came two days after Democratic legislators accused Haley of disregarding rural areas.

Mar. 8, 2013

More than 20 people are scheduled to say farewell to their hair Saturday afternoon to support the St. Baldrick's Foundation, a charity raising money for childhood cancer research. The Croft Fire Department in Spartanburg will host the "Shave to Save" event starting at 10 a.m., and the event coordinator Rachel Smith hopes to raise well past her fundraising goal of \$5,000. "There will be tons to do all day long for our big event," Smith said. "Not only can you cheer on the people who are being shaved, but you can enjoy great food and a big silent auction full of great stuff." The St. Baldrick's Foundation has raised millions of dollars for defeating cancer in babies, children and young adults.

Mar. 12, 2013

Cannabis, marijuana, pot - whatever you call it, merely having it could get you in serious trouble. But the messages that people see of marijuana are usually comical or borderline on the over-the-top. "When I was growing up, you were more concerned about your parents or your preacher finding out about you smoking marijuana than you would have the police," said Sharon Ravert with Georgia Moms for Marijuana. Ravert has been outspoken for the past seven years on marijuana legalization. In addition to her position as a director for Moms for Marijuana and the Georgia Chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, otherwise known as NORML. "If prohibition worked, by all means, I'd be all for it," Ravert said. "But it hasn't worked and it won't work. We can't arrest our way out of this." Ravert believes marijuana needs to be legalized because she believes the war on the drug has long been over. She said the stigma of a possession of marijuana arrest is more damaging than the actual use of the drug. And Ravert said the numbers speak for themselves. Marijuana has been illegal in the United States since 1937, but federal government studies show more than 17 million Americans were admitted regular marijuana users in 2010. That number dwarfs all other reported illegal drug use in the studies, which also showed usage rates growing among children as young as 12. "We know that it's an addictive substance, we know that there's a harm associated with taking marijuana - it impact's an adolescent's brain in a horrible way," said Adam Brickner with the Phoenix Center, a drug addiction treatment facility in Greenville. He believes marijuana shouldn't be legalized. His reason? Keeping it away from children. Brickner said he sees about 100 adolescents come in for treatment every year because of chronic marijuana use. "They're smoking a lot of marijuana by the time they're coming to us," said Brickner. "It's not like we're seeing someone smoking once a week or so." There's evidence to back up his claims, too. A 2011 University of Oregon study found that adolescents who were chronic marijuana users had an eight-point drop in their IQ. They also found the effects were non-reversible heading into adulthood. The study, which is controversial and under fire for the methods used, does underline one big issue that marijuana advocates and their opposition agree on - that use among adolescents needs to stop. "We do not advocate the use of marijuana, especially for young people," said Ravert. "That is the main reason we do this - it's to protect young people from drugs and marijuana and get it out of the classrooms and back playgrounds." Both sides acknowledge marijuana use will likely never stop. But the solution that each side has to combating use among teens is different. One side recommends keeping marijuana illegal. "My concern is that if it becomes, when it becomes legalized, more adolescents will engage in the behavior, and will have lifelong problems associated with that," said Brickner. The other side said pot should be regulated like alcohol. "If my kid has a marijuana cigarette in their bedroom and I find it, you can be rest assured that I'm not going to be happy," Ravert said. "And I'm going to deal with it. But I don't want the police to come to my house and pull my kid out of bed and search her room to find it." Despite efforts to legalize marijuana, it appears legislators in South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia aren't taking up marijuana legalization for all anytime soon. A state representative in North Carolina, however, has introduced a bill that would legalize medical cannabis, but similar bills have failed in the past in the General Assembly. But both sides in the debate over legalization said this is conversation that is long overdue. No matter what anyone thinks of marijuana, they said it's high time to talk, and the conversation is getting louder.

Mar. 18, 2013

Tim Wetter spent some bonding time with his son Monday night at the Sharp Shooters range in Greenville County. He said he's teaching him about gun safety. "He understands if I teach him, that I will take him shooting, but it has to be in the proper place and in the proper manner," Wetter said. Not only can you practice at the range at Sharp Shooters, but you can also buy bullets and guns too. Those items are shooting off the shelves, but employees said they try to make sure guns don't get into the wrong hands. "Whenever we sell a firearm, we are required by federal law to turn around and run a NIX check, which is through FBI," Ted Landreth said. He's a co-owner of Sharp Shooters and a strong supporter of Second Amendment rights. "You can look around in this

store and you won't see any gun in there that wants to jump off the wall and hurt anybody," Landreth said. He also supports a new proposed bill that would require gun shop employees to run a mental health background check in a national database before a potential customer buys a gun. "It's not the gun, it's what's in the people's heart and sometimes what's in their minds," Landreth said. State Rep. Leon Stavrinakis, D-District 119, introduced the bill Monday afternoon in front of Ashley Hall, a private school in Charleston. Police said Alice Boland, a woman with a history of mental illness, pulled the trigger of a pistol several times when an Ashley Hall school employee approached her, but the gun never fired. "We can not afford to wait around for this to happen again and for us not to be lucky next time," Stavrinakis said. Investigators said Boland bought the gun legally three days before the incident. And Wetter said the database is necessary because not everyone should be a gun owner. "People can have emotional issues and never had been arrested," Wetter said. Counselors who work with those with mental illness said there are different levels of illness and it could be difficult to determine who goes into a database and who doesn't.

Mar. 20, 2013

In the game of football, players face tough opponents, and former NFL linebacker Chris Draft knows what it means to play hard. That's why his new game plan is to beat lung cancer. "What we've found consistently is there is hope for lung cancer," Draft said. Draft formed Team Draft with his wife, Keasha Rutledge Draft, at their wedding. She grew up in Williamston, was athletic, healthy and a non-smoker. But, despite all of that, she was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. "She came to me and she said 'You know what, how about we don't get presents? How about we just ask people to support this fight against lung cancer?' Now it's morphed into this national campaign to change the face of lung cancer," Draft said. A month after their wedding, she died, and since then, Draft's new playbook is filled with cancer survivors. He makes moves from city to city, touring cancer centers and treatment facilities. He said the mission is to pass on hope to survivors based on what he's learned in honor of his late wife. "So hold on, keep fighting, keep living, and something's coming. She wanted to be an inspiration during her fight," Draft said. He recently toured ITOR, which is the Institute for Translational Oncology Research with the Greenville Hospital System. ITOR provides advanced cancer treatment through on-site research. "We're seeing relatively young patients, perhaps even in their 40's, present with cough, chest pain, shortness of breath and have lung cancer that we cannot link to a personal history of smoking," Dr. William Gluck said. Gluck is an oncologist with the Greenville Hospital System, where new genetic testing is being done in hopes of detecting lung cancer early. "We're saying that this isn't just that you have lung cancer, but this is your specific DNA pattern that allows us then to introduce a very directive, personalized therapy of cancer," Gluck said. The test looks at the activity of genes in cancer cells to determine which patients would benefit from certain aggressive treatments. "That's the clue for us to say these are the normal gene patterns. These are the abnormal ones. Not that they were born with them, but they were acquired," Gluck said. In the ITOR lab, clinical trials are also taking place along with new testing for cancer mutations on machines called gene sequencers. Gluck said patients are also seeing progress with less aggressive treatment. "Many of those patients actually benefit from a pill as opposed to the use of general chemotherapy," Gluck said. One of those pills is crizotinib, the drug that blocks a gene which causes cancer growth. "We've had patients go from practically disabled to pretty functional in two weeks," Gluck said. However, for patients who still need surgery, some of them are introduced to a Da Vinci robot. Its arms, cameras and precision are operated by Dr. William Bolton and Dr. Jim Stephenson. They are both thoracic surgeons. "We think it's very precise. We're amazed at what the robot lets us do with the instruments," Stephenson said. "You take four to five trocars, (which) are inserted into the chest cavity, one with a camera, and the remaining with instruments which the surgeon controls." So, while doctors control robots in one part of the room, patients are getting treatment just feet away. "What's unique about the robotic system is

it provides three-dimensional optics and magnification in the ability to operate very small incisions without dividing or cutting ribs," Stephenson said. Stephenson said that could mean less pain and quicker recovery time for patients. It's a procedure bringing hope to cancer patients throughout the Upstate and the country.

Mar. 21, 2013

South Carolina health officials are holding their first of four public meetings to hear what foods should be removed from the list of eligible items for people on food stamps. The discussion is part of the Department of Health and Environmental Control's efforts to fight obesity in South Carolina. Gov. Nikki Haley and health officials want the federal government to let the state restrict food stamp purchases of unhealthy foods. Thursday's meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. at the Richland County Council chambers in Columbia. Future meetings are scheduled for March 28 in Florence, April 18 in Greenville and May 2 in North Charleston. Currently, about 878,000 people in South Carolina receive about \$1.4 billion in benefits each year through the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Mar. 26, 2013

A bill that would bar North Carolina children under age 18 from visiting tanning salons is moving closer to becoming law. The Youth Skin Cancer Prevention Act was approved Tuesday by the state House Health and Human Services committee. The bill is backed by the American Cancer Society, as well as state associations representing pediatricians, dermatologists and oncologists. The measure is criticized by the tanning industry as an attack on small businesses rooted in flawed science. American Suntanning Association scientific adviser Joseph Levy told lawmakers there was no conclusive medical evidence linking moderate tanning bed use to increased risk of skin cancer. He likened the proposed ban to outlawing water because some youths drown. Levy later conceded he had no formal training or academic degrees in either medicine or science.

## *Attachments*



## *Jobs, Economy, Growth*

**ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED  
FIRST QUARTER 2013**

Problem/Need: **JOBS/ECONOMY/GROWTH**

**DATE**

**TIME**

**PROGRAM**

**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS AIRED:**

- Foreclosure Scam Prevention

Jan. 2, 2013

An industrial chemical manufacturer announced they will open a new plant in Gaffney, creating several new jobs. Royce Associates, a manufacturer and supplier of industrial chemicals, said they will invest \$1 million, generating 25 new jobs. The company recently bought a 14-acre site and 48,000-square-foot building along Peachview Boulevard. "Gaffney is a perfect fit for Royce. Geographically, it makes a lot of sense with our current and future customer base," said Harry Anand, president of Royce International. "We are recognized for industry leading technical experts in the various industries we serve. We plan to bring this technology to our new Gaffney site and use this as the foundation for our next stage of growth." The Gaffney plant will house Royce's chemical production and distribution operations, serving customers in the textile, paper, construction and plastics markets. They said the facility should be operational by the end of the year. They are hiring for new positions immediately. Anyone interested in job opportunities with the company should send an e-mail to [career@royceintl.com](mailto:career@royceintl.com). Royce was founded in 1929 in East Rutherford, NJ, and has five other facilities across the country and several internationally.

Jan. 11, 2013

A staffing agency says they hope to fill approximately 80 jobs at local company immediately. Phillips Staffing said the positions are for assembly technicians at for Pickens Manufacturing Facility. The jobs start at \$8 an hour with mandatory overtime and are available for first and second shifts. Interested candidates are asked to apply in person at Phillips Staffing's Easley office at 700 S. Pendleton St.

Jan. 13, 2013

The unemployment rates in the Carolina's unemployment rate has dropped again. South Carolina's unemployment rate has dropped for the fourth straight month. The state Department of Employment and Workforce says the jobless rate in November was 8.3 percent. That's down .3 percentage points from the October rate. The number of people without jobs dropped by more than 6,000. The number of people who were working increased by nearly 10,000. The unemployment rate has dropped 1.5 percentage points in the past year.

The national unemployment rate last month was down to 7.7 percent. Employment in the retail sector increased by 5,500 workers with the holiday season. Government employment increased by 3,100 positions. The tourism and hospitality industry lost about 2,200 jobs since October. Marion County had the highest unemployment rate at 15.8 percent. Lexington County had the lowest rate at 6.3 percent. North Carolina's unemployment rate dropped slightly in November from a month earlier as the state gained nearly 35,000 new jobs. The state Commerce Department released figures Friday showing that the rate dropped to 9.1 percent from 9.3 percent in October. The figures show a significant improvement from the same time one year ago, when unemployment was 10.4 percent. The state still trails the national rate, which was 7.7 percent in November. The largest monthly increase came in the trade, transportation and utilities sector, which gained 7,300 jobs. , Professional and business services added 5,400 jobs, and education and health services had 4,900 more workers. Since February 2010, when the state's unemployment rate reached its highest mark of 11.4 percent, North Carolina has gained about 145,000 jobs.

Jan. 18, 2013

A battery technology company announced Friday that they will move their headquarters to Henderson County from Nevada, creating more than 100 jobs. Zentric, Inc. said it will open its headquarters at an existing facility on Continuum Drive in Fletcher, creating 116 jobs and investing \$7 million during the next few years. Zentric develops battery technologies and fuel cell storage and said its new headquarters will allow them to further its battery and solar technology developments. "Henderson County offered a strong business climate balanced with a focus on sustainability, elected leadership that understood business needs, and access to a qualified workforce – all of which help to ensure our company's successful start-up," said Zentric President William Tien. Zentric plans to expand the Fletcher facility in 2014.

Jan. 19, 2013

Both South Carolina and North Carolina's unemployment rates went up for the first time in months. The South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce said Friday that the state's jobless rate was 8.4 percent in December. Before December, South Carolina unemployment had dropped for four straight months. In November, state officials said the monthly mark of 8.3 percent was South Carolina's lowest unemployment rate since October 2008. Employment and Workforce executive director Abraham Turner said the increase was attributed in part to a seasonal drop of nearly 6,000 jobs in South Carolina's leisure and hospitality industry. Government jobs also dropped by 2,300. Unemployment went up in all but three of South Carolina's 46 counties in December. Nationally, unemployment last month was 7.8 percent. North Carolina's unemployment rate increased slightly in December as the size of the labor force also increased. The state Commerce Department said Friday the rate was 9.2 percent in December, compared with 9.1 percent in November. That's down from 10.4 percent in December 2011. Overall, North Carolina's rate dropped in 2012. The state started the year with a 10.2 percent rate last January. The labor force also grew by about 17,000 in December. Meanwhile, weekly applications for unemployment benefits increased in North Carolina for the week ending Jan. 5, even as applications dropped sharply nationally to a five-year low. Applications increased by nearly 14,000 because of layoffs in textiles, business services, construction, furniture and transportation equipment.

Jan. 23, 2013

Gov. Nikki Haley will be in the Upstate Wednesday afternoon to celebrate another economic development [📍](#). She'll be at JTEKT Automotive on Old Grove Road in Piedmont at 2 p.m. The company makes and sells automotive components. Last year, the company announced a \$102 million job-creating investment and plans to expand its operations with a new building. The company's North America headquarters are in Plymouth, MI.

Jan. 24, 2013

Michelin announced on Thursday that they have planned a \$200 million expansion of the company's Anderson County plant in Starr that will generate several new jobs. Michelin North America made the announcement at the plant to a room full of workers, company officials and more. The expansion will increase manufacturing the company's rubber compound material used to build tires and will create 100 new jobs. "I am proud to say this new expansion at this facility is one of the lynchpins that will allow us to maintain Michelin's industry leadership in providing customers with the best tires in all categories," said Pete Selleck, chairman and president of Michelin North America. "Michelin's continued investment in Anderson County and the state of South Carolina is a testament to our proven, high-quality workforce here." Construction has started on the expansion, located next to the current facility. Operations are slated to begin in 2014. People interested in applying for the new jobs can visit [careers.michelin-us.com](http://careers.michelin-us.com), with hiring already started for maintenance technicians. A Michelin spokesperson said recruitment should begin in the coming months for production workers. Michelin is South Carolina's largest manufacturing employer and has invested \$1.15 billion, creating at least 870 jobs in nearly two years. Last April, Michelin also announced a \$750 million investment with the creation of a new Anderson County plant along with an expansion of their Lexington County plant. There are nine of Michelin's 18 North American production facilities in South Carolina.


Jan. 29, 2013

The speaker of the North Carolina House says there's a fear that the Carolina Panthers could move if they don't get financial help to upgrade Bank of America Stadium. Thom Tillis made those remarks Tuesday in response to questions about talks between the state and team officials about the proposed multimillion dollar project. The Panthers want to renovate the outdoor 74,000-seat stadium. Panthers' owner Jerry Richardson and team President Danny Morrison have met with both Tillis and Gov. Pat McCrory. Two weeks ago, Richardson discussed the issue with the Charlotte City Council. The Panthers are seeking \$125 million in money from the city and another \$62.5 million from the state to help offset the proposed \$250 million project. Tillis says the Panthers are considering moving if they don't get help.

Feb. 1, 2013

Time Warner Cable is expanding its operations in Lexington County, investing \$24 million that's expected to create almost 650 new jobs during the next year. The company said Friday that the new jobs are being created with an expansion of its telephone sales support and payment operations in West Columbia. The expansion increases the number of jobs that the company provides in South Carolina by more than 50 percent. Time Warner Cable already employs about 1,300 workers in the state. Gov. Nikki Haley said that the expansion is another indication of South Carolina's business-friendly climate. The cable and Internet company is currently hiring for the new jobs. It's planning to hold a job fair on Tuesday at its West Columbia offices.


Feb. 7, 2013

Many work from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., but once employees leave work, the work calls and emails keep coming. One Chicago man is putting his foot down and he's suing. He claims the emails need to stop after work. Manager Julie Godshall Brown with Godshall Staffing in Greenville said the need to stay connected  can bring about some concern according to the Fair Labor Standards Act. Brown said the problem typically comes for non-exempt employees, which means they should get paid overtime for hours worked more than 40 hours a week. "Plus, they're required to take phone calls or emails to stay connected. That's when it becomes very gray," Brown said. It's a gray area Greenville attorney Grant Varner said could pose a problem. "Quite often you hear about hourly-waged employees being asked to work 20 minutes here, 45 minutes here and come back from lunch 15 minutes early," Varner said. "The problem is those hours do eventually add up." Varner said the group most likely to be successful with lawsuits are hourly-wage employees that clock in and clock out. He said the best thing to do if a worker feels like they are a victim is to document every time they use their cell phone, check email or answer text messages for work to see how much work they are doing off the clock. He also recommends workers find an attorney who practice employee and labor law.

Feb. 8, 2013

A company that makes plastic closures for beverages, food and motor oil and agriculture is expanding its plant in Cherokee County. State officials said Thursday that Bericap North America will spend \$29 million on the expansion that will create 50 jobs in the next five years. The expansion will double the size of the plant. Construction is expected to begin later this year and should be complete early next year. Company officials say the expansion will meet growing demand for their products in the Southeast. Hiring will begin late this summer.

Feb. 15, 2013

U.S. Deputy Secretary of Commerce Rebecca Blank visited the BMW plant in Greer Friday. Blank delivered remarks on what the federal government can do to help areas across the United States emulate the success of the Greenville-Spartanburg area when it comes to manufacturing. She touted BMW's success in the Upstate and its help to reinvigorate both the local community and economy as well as American manufacturing. Blank said the administration hopes to recruit more global companies to move or add locations across the country following in the steps of companies like BMW. "They see a stable supply of oil and gas ... coupled with lower energy costs. They see our workers being more productive than ever before. They see Americans buying again and our economy growing faster than others," Blank said. She said the country needs to be ready to attract global investments. "When a global CEO looks at an American community, we want them to know that all of the pieces are coming together to help them make it in America," Blank said. To further recruit these investments, Blank said local education efforts along with road and transportation improvements are needed, with the help of federal funding. Blank's visit comes on the heels of President Barack Obama's State of the Union Address, in which he outlined a broad agenda for attracting manufacturing investment in the United States. The BMW plant in Greer currently employs nearly 7,000 people and is in the middle of a multi-million dollar construction project that will bring even more jobs. This is the second time this week that the manufacturing industry in the area has received national attention. Wednesday, Obama gave a speech at Linamar corporation in Asheville. Linamar is a manufacturing plant that develops systems for the automotive industry . The company took over the plant after Volvo left in 2011. Obama cited Linamar as an example of what is happening all over the country. He said America is becoming more competitive and more productive, resulting in companies like Ford and Apple bringing jobs back from overseas.

Feb. 21, 2013

Residents in Powdersville will have a new place to shop and go to work when the under-construction Wal-Mart opens later this year. The new Wal-Mart store is hiring about 275 associates and is hosting a hiring event at the Easley Wal-Mart on Thursday. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., interested candidates can stop by the Easley location at 115 Rolling Hills Road to apply. "We are hiring both full- and part-time associates," said store manager Ginny Marhanka. "Wal-Mart provides good jobs with opportunities for career growth, and we look forward to talking with candidates who are interested in joining our store's team." Most associates will begin working in February in preparation for the store's grand opening. Candidates who can't make Thursday's event can apply online at [careers.walmart.com](http://careers.walmart.com) or stop by the new store's hiring center, which is located less than a half-mile from the new store at 115 Siloam Road, across the street from Siloam Baptist Church and next to Concrete Elementary School. The hiring center is open Mondays through Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Feb. 26, 2013

Potentially large layoffs loom at Daimler Trucks factories in North America. Daimler Trucks North America said Tuesday it was notifying production workers at its manufacturing plants in North Carolina, South Carolina, Oregon and Mexico under a law that requires notice two months ahead of mass layoffs. The company said it would provide details Thursday. Among those plants is a Freightliner trucks plant in Cleveland, NC. The company said a year ago that it was calling 1,100 workers there back to work because of improving demand in the U.S., Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. In South Carolina, the company has plants in both Gaffney and Fort Mill. It was not immediately clear which of these plants was part of the layoffs.

Mar. 4, 2013

People who want in-person help with their unemployment benefits may have a longer drive starting Feb. 19. The Department of Employment and Workforce is reducing its offices for unemployment services from 56 to 39. Agency spokeswoman Adrienne Fairwell says clients can still get services online or by calling a toll-free number. But for face-to-face help, many rural residents will need to go to a different office. For example, Allendale County residents will instead go to Barnwell. The offices won't close. Fairwell says SC Works career centers will remain at the locations. The agency says a loss of federal funds led to the change. The agency laid off 55 people last October. An additional 75 jobs have been cut. The agency says affected clients have been notified by mail.

Mar. 6, 2013

Smokers may soon have a harder time finding jobs. It will soon become a reality for a Tennessee-based hospital system. This week, Mountain States Health Alliance announced that come March 1, it won't hire anyone who tests positive for nicotine during the hiring process. The hospital system said it won't fire employees they already have who smoke. Leaders said not hiring new smokers, is all a part of their initiative for healthy living. Some experts believe it's all about the money. *Forbes Magazine* said that if a company doesn't hire smokers, they could save \$11,000 a year per employee. Some folks in Greenville see that point; others don't like what they call "discrimination." Francesca Schmidt is a smoker and thinks not hiring smokers isn't fair. She said personal choices that don't directly affect work performance shouldn't be considered. "If we're good workers then we're good workers, and if we're not good workers than we're not," Schmidt said. But Greenville recruiter and president of Godshall Professional Recruiting and Staffing Julie Godshall Brown said some companies may see smoking as a work performance indicator. She's seen a trend in companies wanting their employees to be

healthy for many reasons, including high insurance costs when they're not and wanting lower absenteeism and higher productivity. Brown said a hiring policy that eliminates smokers from the pool of candidates is bold, but not a shock. "I think there probably has been some bias for a long time for those who have unhealthy lifestyles, whether or not it's a smoker or other unhealthy habits," Brown said. She said her recruiters tell candidates for jobs to make sure they clean up and look professional for interviews, as well as trying not to smell like smoke "because as soon as they walk in, that smell, just like cologne might be to some people, it certainly can be offensive." The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) said not hiring smokers would not be considered discrimination according to the Americans with Disabilities Act because smoking is a choice and not a disability. The American Lung Association does say that 29 states, including South and North Carolina, have protections for smokers.

Mar. 11, 2013

Walmart has begun hiring the 150 people the company needs for a new store that is set to open this spring in Pickens. The retail giant has opened a temporary hiring center at 211 E. Main St., across from the Pickens County Courthouse, where people can apply for the available jobs. The center is open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Store Manager Christopher Lee said the company will be hiring both full-time and part-time employees for the store. He said people are needed in all areas of the store, including supervisory positions. The company also has a benefits program available to employees that includes healthcare coverage, 401(k), merchandise discounts, a stock purchase program and life insurance. Interested applicants may also apply for the jobs online at [careers.walmart.com](http://careers.walmart.com).

Mar. 15, 2013

TD Bank opened its new corporate center in Greenville on Friday and will host a job fair on Saturday. The 300,000-square-foot facility is located along Interstate 85 at 200 Carolina Point Pkwy. The hub will be the bank's southeast operations headquarters and hopes to employ a total of 1,400 workers in the next few years. The company held its ribbon cutting ceremony Friday morning with TD Bank President Bharat Masrani, Regional President Rob Hoak and Greenville Mayor Knox White in attendance to celebrate the hub's call center and other operations. On Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., to continue celebrating the campus' opening, TD Bank is hosting a family-friendly event and job fair. Attendees can bring their resumes, find out how to apply for jobs in the bank's audit, credit, operations, call center and retail banking departments at Saturday's event. The center is looking to fill nearly 300 open full and part-time jobs, and are looking for candidates with bilingual Spanish or French or skills. Human resource representatives will be at the fair to collect resumes. Candidates can also apply online at [tdbank.com/careers](http://tdbank.com/careers). Candidates can bring their families along for food, games and prizes, entertainment and tours of the new call center. The company's headquarters are located in the northeast.

Mar. 20, 2013

Can women have it all - a family and a successful career? It's a question that's been put in the spotlight by former Lehman Brothers CFO Erin Callan, who recently said she regrets letting her Wall Street career keep her from having a family and personal life. Several successful business women recognized at the Women Making History awards dinner shared their perspective on the issue Tuesday night, when the TD Convention Center was filled with women who are working mothers and wives. "My personal approach was to integrate my children into my career experience and allow myself to be a role model, which is a part of parenting," said Ava Smith. Smith is a mother of three with three businesses. She was among the honorees because of her business and community leadership in the Upstate. Like many women in the room, some said balance and priorities are key. "You have

so many people that have success," said Marcia Williams. "They are making a lot of money, they have a position, but they are not fulfilled because they don't have the people there to support them. They are missing something." Williams was a track and field head coach at Clemson University, is a mother to five children, a wife and now a business owner. She said without family, she wouldn't have the support she needs for her career. "People, when they get to the end of their life, you don't have anybody saying 'I should have worked harder or I should have worked longer hours,'" Williams said. "You have people say, 'I wish I would have taken more time to meet that special person and start a family so I can have someone with me at the end of my life to enjoy this with.'" But women also emphasize that deciding to pursue a career over a family, or vice versa, is a decision, not a sacrifice. "I don't think you should ever regret what you decide to do," said Lisa Uldrick, who is a wife, mother of two and has been a mortgage banker for more than 30 years. "I think when you have a burning passion for something - no matter what your life is like at that moment - I think you should just go for it." Whether it's to have a family, a career or both, women say they are positioned to do it all with a little something called balance.

Mar. 26, 2013

Bi-Lo is laying off more than 100 workers at its former corporate headquarters in Mauldin. Spokesman Brian Wright said Monday 130 employees were being laid off starting next month because of the company's merger with Winn-Dixie. Bi-Lo LLC bought the Jacksonville, FL.-based grocery store chain in 2011 for \$560 million. The newly merged company will be based in Florida. Mauldin Mayor Dennis Raines says the news is troubling but says he's been assured by Bi-Lo officials that the company will not pull out of the city entirely. Bi-Lo was founded in South Carolina in 1961. In 2010, the company completed a financial restructuring and emerged from protection under Chapter 11 of the U.S. bankruptcy code. The merger was announced the next year.

Mar. 29, 2013

South Carolina's unemployment rate dropped slightly in February. The state Department of Employment and Workforce said Friday that the state's jobless rate was 8.6 percent last month. That's one-tenth of a percentage point lower than January's rate. Officials attributed the drop to gains in non-farm jobs, which went up by nearly 18,000 last month. The government sector grew by 8,000 jobs, with officials saying that was because schools ramped up hiring for the spring semester. Demand was also higher for health care and social services. The leisure and hospitality sectors gained about 4,000 jobs.

*Attachments*



*Government*

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM OR NEED  
FIRST QUARTER 2013**

Problem/Need: **GOVERNMENT**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
Sundays	10:00 am	FOX NEWS SUNDAY

Description:

Fox News Sunday is a national weekly program with current events and political issues. (60:00)

**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS AIRED:**

- US Coast Guard
- SC Army National Guard

Jan. 2, 2013

The recently released Winthrop Poll shows that most South Carolinians disapprove of Gov. Nikki Haley, but believe the state's economy is getting better. The survey of 929 residents, showed that 41 percent disapprove of the way Haley is handling her job, while 38 percent approve. However, most of the respondents approved of the state Legislature. Most of those surveyed rated the state's economy as fairly good, and most said they believe the economic conditions in South Carolina are getting better. Haley's spokesman, Rob Godfrey, said that is the message the governor took away from the poll. "That's good news, and it's well-deserved, because we're coming out of the recession very strongly," Godfrey said. "Our focus is on keeping that trend going, with more economic development, more jobs and more government reform." At the national level, 48 percent of respondents approve of the job President Barack Obama is doing, while 41 percent disapprove. However, an overwhelming majority, 77 percent, said they disapprove of Congress. When asked about the condition of the national economy, most of those surveyed, 39 percent, rated it as fairly bad, but 49 percent said they believe that the economy is improving. The poll had a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percent.

Jan. 2, 2013

About 1 million people have signed up for free identity theft protection in the state, but that's still only a quarter of those the governor's office said were exposed to the Department of Revenue hacking. Now, some experts believe freezing credit lines may be another option. After the department of revenue was hacked, Dan Conti, of Greenville, signed up for the free credit monitoring, but also logged onto the big three credit bureaus websites and froze credits for himself and his kids. "At least this'll be another firewall that put in place it'll make it more difficult for them to try to steal my ID and go on to the next person where they don't have this in place," said Conti. He said it was easy to do by logging onto TransUnion, Experian and Equifax websites and signing up for

their security freezing programs. Conti tested out the security freeze when he bought a car a couple weeks ago. He said when the creditor tried to check his credit but couldn't, Conti called Experian and unfroze his credit for two days, with little effort. Vee Daniel, the president of the Upstate's Better Business Bureau, thinks it's a smart move because it's the only way to know that no one else is taking credit out in your name. Daniel said the only con she sees is a person needing to remember to unfreeze their credit before they need it to take out a mortgage, buy a car or open a credit card. J.D. Nelson is the vice president at County Bank. He said freezing credit doesn't hurt anyone's credit score. He said since identity theft has become so common, it doesn't look bad to potential creditors anymore, either. Nelson believes credit freezing is better than fraud alerts because those became so common that many creditors overlook them. "A fraud alert is really kind of just a warning, kind of a yellow light if you would. Whereas a credit freeze is like a red light and a creditor cannot provide any person any credit without having it unfrozen," said Nelson. Thanks to a 2008 law, credit freezing is free in South Carolina. It may have a minimal charge in other states.

Jan. 4, 2013

The Greenville County Council is considering a ban on loud music coming from cars. The ordinance would prohibit music that can be heard inside someone else's car or house. The first offense would result in a \$250 fine, the second a \$500 fine and the third time would result in jail time and the confiscation of the sound system. District 17 Councilman said the ordinance came from a recommendation by the Greenville County Sheriff's Office, who has fielded several complaints about noisy stereos. "I think they're not going to want to lose their machine," said Dill. "But they are going to have to learn to keep the volume down so that it doesn't disturb neighborhoods and people in traffic." David Brown, a technician at Elite Audio, said he thinks the proposed law goes too far. "You might as well ban jack-hammering on the side of the road or construction work," Brown said. Jamaal Bryant, who has one of the sound systems at which the ban is aimed, said he wants the council to keep their hands off his tunes. "If you want to hear loud music in your car, I think, it's your car," Bryant said. The ordinance must pass two more readings before it becomes law.

Jan. 7, 2013

In South Carolina, marriage is defined as between a man and a woman. Now, North Carolina has joined the other 28 states by adding this definition to its constitution. Amendment 1 passed by a 22 percent margin on Tuesday. Only eight counties in North Carolina voted against the law. Political consultant Chip Felkel called the defeat for those in favor of gay marriage "significant." He expects the vote, and President Barack Obama's newly announced support for same-sex marriage, will play a part in the upcoming presidential election. He said the vote wasn't too surprising because areas outside of the larger metropolises are largely conservative. "I wonder if this had gone differently if it had been a civil union discussion as opposed to marriage," said Felkel. The last time North Carolina changed its marriage laws was in the late 1960s when the Supreme Court's *Loving v. Virginia* case deemed the ban on interracial marriage unconstitutional. Dr. Carmen Harris, history professor at the University of South Carolina Upstate, said the vote is less about marriage and more about "the concept of American liberty, and whether a majority of people in America have a right to make decisions for others. She said Amendment 1 fits along well with America's past, connecting all the way back to the American Revolution and the Bill of Rights. "The history of America has been a history of a civil rights struggle," said Harris, "for what are our natural and unalienable rights."

Jan. 14, 2013

A spokesman for Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-SC, said the congressman's office in Washington was burglarized last month. According to a police report, the break-in happened April 10, and a computer monitor and two cameras were stolen. Originally, the chief administrative officer found Gowdy's office was responsible for the equipment and that the congressman was required to pay to replace the stolen items. However, the representative was granted a waiver Thursday. In a letter appealing the CAO's decision, Gowdy said that his staff made every attempt to secure the stolen equipment. He said that the doors to his office were locked when his staff returned the morning after the break-in. He said that evidence suggest the burglar had access to his office. According to the *National Journal*, two other congressmen's offices were burglarized the same night - Rep. Jerry Lewis, R-CA, and Rep. Jon Runyan, R-NJ. Gowdy represents South Carolina's Fourth District, which includes Greenville, Spartanburg and Union counties, and a part of Laurens County.

Jan. 14, 2013

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley announced her replacement for U.S. Sen. Jim DeMint on Monday. Haley announced at noon at the Statehouse that Rep. Tim Scott, R-Charleston, will take DeMint's empty seat in January. Scott, a tea party-backed conservative, will be the first African-American senator in the state's history. State law gave the Republican governor the authority to pick DeMint's successor. DeMint announced less than two weeks ago that he would resign Jan. 1 to take the helm of a national conservative think tank The Heritage Foundation. Scott will take over on Jan. 3. "It's been an honor to serve the people of South Carolina in [the] United States Senate for the past eight years," DeMint said earlier in December. "Now, it's time for me to pass the torch to someone else and take on a new role in the fight for America's future." Upon Haley's announcement of Scott as her choice, he took the podium and after a moment of silence for Newtown, CT, Scott went on to say thank you for the opportunity to serve in the Senate. Scott said he knows there is no way to fill DeMint's show but looks forward to serving South Carolina, including making a statement about the federal government's spending. "We can take all the revenue from the top 2 percent and simply could not close the annual deficit," Scott said. He went on to say his top two priorities are tax reform and spending control. "And Tim, I could not be happier today," DeMint said after Scott's appointment was announced. "I appreciate the compliments. I can walk away knowing someone is in the seat that is better than I am and can carry conservatism to our country." DeMint said he is leaving the Senate because he needs to take the case to fix America to the people and can make a difference through the Heritage Foundation. He said that several Republican governors and leaders recognize the current course of the federal government will "end up in some type of meltdown" and he is working to prevent that. "I will keep serving and fighting the way that you've seen in the past," DeMint said. In response to DeMint's service, Sen. Lindsey Graham thanked him for his work and their work together representing South Carolina. "You will be someone who is listened to for what you've done the last four years," Graham said about DeMint. With regard to Haley's choice of Scott as Senator-elect, Grahams said she "chose wisely." "Only advice I can give you is you got here by being Tim Scott. Just keep being Tim Scott," Graham said. "Just keep being the good person you are. He will be a great senator, a better person than he is a politician." Scott will fill the seat until 2014, when voters will choose who will fill the remaining two years of DeMint's term. Haley's five finalists were reportedly former first lady Jenny Sanford, U.S. Reps. Tim Scott and Trey Gowdy, former Attorney General Henry McMaster and state health agency director Catherine Templeton.

Jan. 16, 2013

Former South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford is set to announce that he's running for his old seat in Congress. The two-time governor plans a press release and interviews with the media Wednesday in making the announcement to seek the 1st District seat along the state's coast. His twitter account announced his campaign intentions Wednesday morning, linking to his new website marksanford.com. Sanford has said that reports that he wants to get back into politics are accurate. Sanford was considered a possible Republican presidential contender until he revealed in 2009 that he had an affair with an Argentine woman to whom he has since become engaged. Sanford's ex-wife, Jenny, said this week that she won't be seeking the congressional seat. She said that being at home in South Carolina with her family was more important than making a run for Congress.

Jan. 16, 2013

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley asked legislators in her third State of the State address on Wednesday to overhaul public school funding, improve the state's roads and make prisons safer for guards who oversee the most violent offenders. The Republican governor also revived previous calls to restructure government and further cut taxes. Haley also addressed one of the biggest stories of 2012 - a hacking incident at the state Department of Revenue, which allowed the information of nearly every taxpayer in the state to be accessed. In her address, the governor admitted the state should have done more to protect the personal information of taxpayers and pledged to increase cyber security across agencies. "While cyber security policies were carried out on nearly a daily basis in almost every agency, South Carolina lacks a single entity with the authority necessary to better secure our systems," Haley said. "We must fix that and we must fix it this year." Haley said the state government has already taken steps to make data more secure, including encrypting all personal and sensitive data. The governor also talked about the federal healthcare law, also known as Obamacare. She said that other states which have started implementing the Medicaid expansion in the law are having trouble paying for it. Haley said South Carolina will avoid that problem by simply refusing to join the Medicaid expansion. In the Democratic response, Columbia business owner Jill Moylan called on Haley to focus on a fairer tax system that helps out small businesses grow. "Small businesses are forced to shoulder more and more of the tax burden," Moylan said. "Too much of our attention is focused on large, out-of-state corporations, and we are ignoring our own home-grown businesses." Moylan said economic development and education go hand-in-hand. She said officials have seem to forgotten the importance of public education.

Jan. 18, 2013 South Carolina can recover about \$54,000 of its \$3.5 million costs for a lawsuit defending the state's voter identification law. A court on Wednesday ordered the federal government to pay the state for that amount of its legal expenses. South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson sued last year after the U.S. Department of Justice rejected the state's law requiring voters to show specific photo identification at the polls. The Justice Department said the law violated part of the federal Voting Rights Act, which protects minority voters. A panel of federal judges upheld the law in October. Most of the suit's \$3.5 million price tag comes from attorneys' fees, but the law doesn't allow South Carolina to ask the government to pay those bills.

Jan. 28, 2013

Fired Simpsonville Police Chief Keith Grounsell said he wants to continue to serve and "clean up" his city, which may include a run for city council. Grounsell was fired at the Dec. 28 Simpsonville City Council meeting and since then, he has fired back at the council, claiming he was let go because he tried to clean up the department. Grounsell told FOX Carolina on Monday he may run for city council to accomplish that goal. Following his firing,

Simpsonville Mayor Perry Eichor said the decision was made because Grounsell was not a good fit and failed to work well with the city's administration. Last week, city officials said Grounsell's request for a grievance hearing was denied because he was not entitled to a grievance because he was in his probationary period when he was fired. Grounsell said he has not made the final decision whether he will run yet. "I need to pray about it and determine if it is in God's plans for me and my family," Grounsell said. "My first goal has always been to clean up the city," he continued. "If I am not the chief then running for city council is another way for me to work towards accomplishing that goal." If he decides to run, Grounsell said it would be for the Ward IV seat, which Dr. Julius Welborn III currently holds. Welborn's term ends this year. Welborn was one of the five council members who voted to fire Grounsell. FOX Carolina spoke with Welborn on Dec. 29, the day after Grounsell was fired. "This is a very upsetting situation," said Welborn. "I'm not happy with how this has turned out. I think he would have been a good police chief. I'm not very happy with my position on council. Maybe things could have resolved themselves in time." There is no word yet when Grounsell will announce his decision to run or not. The next Simpsonville City Council meeting is scheduled for next Tuesday Feb. 5.

Jan. 30, 2013

A congressman from the Upstate is encouraging America's oldest gun maker to move from New York to South Carolina. U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan, R-Laurens, recently wrote a letter to George Kollitides, CEO of Remington Arms' parent company Freedom Group, urging him to move the company's plant in Ilion, NY, down south. In the letter, Duncan said his home state is more sympathetic to gun rights and has a successful business climate, citing companies like Boeing, BMW, Michelin, Amazon, Bridgestone and ZF. "The enemies of freedom are waging an all-out assault on the Second Amendment to the Constitution, which we have sworn to protect and defend," Duncan said in the letter. "At a time when our government is consistently thwarting the ability of individuals to own businesses, voluntarily trade goods and services, and grow our economy, South Carolina is committed to writing a different story." "It would be an honor to welcome you and America's oldest gun maker to the Palmetto state," wrote Duncan. A Republican congressman from New York said he'll do everything he can to keep the Remington plant in its current location. It's been there since 1816 and employs more than 1,000 workers. Duncan has also announced a Second Amendment Listening Tour where he will talk with Upstate constituents at various locations on Feb. 1.

Feb. 5, 2013

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham is set to visit South Carolina to discuss the Capitol Hill debate over raising the country's debt limit. Graham's office says the Republican is talking about the issue with reporters in Columbia Tuesday. The Treasury Department could soon begin defaulting on government loans unless Congress raises the legal borrowing limit, or debt ceiling. Republicans say they are willing to raise the debt ceiling but insist any increase must be paired with significant savings from Medicare, Medicaid and other government benefit programs. President Barack Obama has said he's willing to consider spending cuts separately but won't bargain over the government's borrowing authority. On CNN's "State of the Union" Sunday, Graham didn't dismiss the idea of allowing a partial shutdown of government until an agreement can be reached.

Feb. 5, 2013

The federal government will have to pay part of South Carolina's \$3.5 million price tag for a lawsuit over the state's tough new voter ID law. A three-judge panel ruled last week that the federal government will be responsible for part of the state's costs because South Carolina won the case. State Attorney General Alan Wilson

sued the federal government last year after the U.S. Department of Justice rejected the law requiring voters to show photo identification. Wilson originally said he thought the suit would cost around \$1 million. But spokesman Mark Powell says the tab ballooned as the case dragged on through the court system. In October, a three-judge panel upheld the law but delayed its enforcement until this year.

Feb. 13, 2013

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley asked legislators in her third State of the State address on Wednesday to overhaul public school funding, improve the state's roads and make prisons safer for guards who oversee the most violent offenders. The Republican governor also revived previous calls to restructure government and further cut taxes. Haley also addressed one of the biggest stories of 2012 - a hacking incident at the state Department of Revenue, which allowed the information of nearly every taxpayer in the state to be accessed. In her address, the governor admitted the state should have done more to protect the personal information of taxpayers and pledged to increase cyber security across agencies. "While cyber security policies were carried out on nearly a daily basis in almost every agency, South Carolina lacks a single entity with the authority necessary to better secure our systems," Haley said. "We must fix that and we must fix it this year." Haley said the state government has already taken steps to make data more secure, including encrypting all personal and sensitive data. The governor also talked about the federal healthcare law, also known as Obamacare. She said that other states which have started implementing the Medicaid expansion in the law are having trouble paying for it. Haley said South Carolina will avoid that problem by simply refusing to join the Medicaid expansion. In the Democratic response, Columbia business owner Jill Moylan called on Haley to focus on a fairer tax system that helps out small businesses grow. "Small businesses are forced to shoulder more and more of the tax burden," Moylan said. "Too much of our attention is focused on large, out-of-state corporations, and we are ignoring our own home-grown businesses." Moylan said economic development and education go hand-in-hand. She said officials have seem to forgotten the importance of public education.

Feb. 24, 2013

A decision could be made Monday night about a controversial prayer issue with the Pickens County School District. In January, the Pickens County School Board voted to look into nonsectarian prayer, a form of nondenominational worship, for the start of their meetings. It's possible they could vote to make a transition to nonsectarian prayer Monday night. Last year, a complaint was filed by the Wisconsin based Freedom From Religion Foundation. They asked the school district to end their practice of holding student-led prayer at the start of their meetings or threatened legal action. The school district said the South Carolina attorney general suggested a nonsectarian policy that is within the law, but some people in Pickens County are not happy with that solution. Pastor Paul Turner and his wife created petition forms for those who want to keep prayer the way it has been. He said so far he's gotten more than 3,000 signatures from adults and about 300 from Pickens County School District students. Supporters of the petition say prayer nonsectarian style isn't prayer at all. "The Bible tells us to pray in Jesus name if we want God to answer us, so I believe all prayers should be in Jesus name," said Turner of Mount Carmel Baptist Church in Easley. Supporters plan to attend Monday's school board meeting in the hundreds, just as they did at January's meeting. They said they will plead board members to fight and keep God in their meetings they also say they aren't just protecting Christians, but people of any religion. "I don't believe anybody in any religion who would pray, would pray without addressing their God," said Turner. Turner told FOX he supports those of other religions also receiving the same rights he is fighting for at the school board meeting. But the Pickens County School District said this plan isn't about keeping religion out of schools, but following the law. "This policy is not what the group in Wisconsin has asked for, their letter has made us look at

our policy and contact the state attorney and our attorneys to find out what is legal," said district spokesman John Eby. The school district said the Freedom From Religion Foundation hasn't filed a lawsuit against the school district at this time. "There's been no lawsuits filed, so I'm hoping they won't allow a threat to stop them from continuing what they've been doing for many years," said Turner. But school district officials said they're not in a position to take legal chances. "We always want our policies to be legal to comply with the law," said Eby. "When we get a letter from the state attorney general that says, 'This is what's legal this is what complies with the law, your current practice doesn't comply,' then we have to look at it." The school board may choose to vote on the issue Monday night, but a vote is not required to take place at this meeting.

Feb. 28, 2013

Officials in South Carolina said taxpayers should be on the lookout for a phishing email that appears to be related to the recent hacking at the state Department of Revenue. Last year, officials said the information of nearly every taxpayer in the Palmetto State was compromised after someone hacked into a system used to store the information at the state tax agency. After the hacking happened, taxpayers were offered free credit-monitoring service for a year from Experian. Now, officials said people looking to cash in on the hacking attack are sending emails that appear to be from the credit bureau. According to the state Department of Consumer Affairs, the email asks consumers to check on potential identity theft or a declining credit score by clicking on a link. Officials said clicking on the link and providing the information requested provides that information to the people behind the scheme. Officials said consumers should verify the message by contacting the business using a known phone number. They said consumers should not click on any links in the message or cut and paste the links into their browser. They said consumers should also watch for broken English and bad grammar in the message. They said consumers should also use anti-virus software and firewall to protect their computers

Mar. 1, 2013

An Upstate congressman will be touring the area on Friday to talk gun rights and the Second Amendment with voters. U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan, R-Laurens, is making five stops in four counties Friday as a part of his "Second Amendment Listening Tour." Duncan has opposed President Barack Obama's executive action regarding gun rights and has also encouraged America's oldest gun maker Remington Arms to relocate one of its plants from New York to South Carolina. "If you talk to most gun owners in South Carolina, they will tell you that the Second Amendment is about more than just collection, protection and sport. The Second Amendment is ultimately about freedom," Duncan said in a release about the tour. "I'm looking forward to thanking local businesses and spending time listening to the people of the Third District." Voters wanting to get out and listen to Duncan can attend one of his tour events on Friday, listed below. 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at Allen Arms, 1210 Poinsett Hwy. in Greenville 11:30 a.m. to noon at The Gun Shop, 306 E. Main St. in Walhalla. 12:30 to 1 p.m. at Southern Firearms and Saddle, 109A Ram Cat Alley in Seneca. 2:15 to 3 p.m. at Grady's Great Outdoors, 3440 Clemson Blvd. in Anderson. 4:15 to 4:45 p.m. at Hunters Headquarters, 1845 Calhoun Road in Greenwood.

Mar. 6, 2013

The Venezuelan government has reported its president, Hugo Chavez, has died and will be laid to rest Friday. Officials announced he died at 4:22 ET Tuesday. Chavez was recently hospitalized with a severe respiratory infection, according to his representative. "Commander, wherever you are, thank you, a thousand thank you's, on behalf of this country you loved, you protected, and that you never let down, " said Venezuelan Vice President Nicolas Maduro. The government has called for seven days of mourning for Chavez, and all schools are closed for

the week. The funeral is reportedly going to be a lavish affair attended by heads of state from allied countries. No date or place were yet announced for Chavez's burial. According to the Associated Press, elections will be called in the next 30 days, though it was not clear exactly when they will be held. Maduro will run Venezuela as interim president until the elections, Foreign Minister Elias Jaua confirmed Tuesday. The Associated Press reports that the Venezuelan constitution mandates that the speaker of the National Assembly should take control if a president cannot be sworn in. However, those left in charge of the country during Chavez's illness haven't been following the letter of the law, a precedent that has human rights and free speech advocates concerned. President Barack Obama issued a neutral statement soon after the death that hinted at a criticism of Chavez's controversial rule. "At this challenging time of President Hugo Chavez's passing, the United States reaffirms its support for the Venezuelan people and its interest in developing a constructive relationship with the Venezuelan government," Obama said. "As Venezuela begins a new chapter in its history, the United States remains committed to policies that promote democratic principles, the rule of law, and respect for human rights." On Twitter, several hashtags began trending moments after the death was announced. "#QEPD Chavez," Spanish for "RIP Spanish," had mostly neutral reactions, including one twitter who said: "I'm not a Chavez supporter at all, but he's a human who fought for his life." In a press conference from the hospital where Chavez passed away, Maduro accused foreign countries of poisoning the president. He also said David Delmonaco, a U.S. Embassy official, would be expelled from the country. Chavez had been president of Venezuela for the past 14 years and won re-election in October 2012 when he defeated Henrique Capriles, governor of Miranda. Capriles was widely expected to run for president again upon Chavez's death. Chavez had been battling cancer since at least 2011, when he announced his condition to the Venezuelan public. He most recently sought treatment in Cuba, but returned to Venezuela on Feb. 18. Several media reports indicated he was bed-ridden and breathing from a tracheal tube. He had not been publicly seen since December, but the Venezuelan government released a photo of him with his daughters in a Cuban hospital in February. Chavez missed his inauguration in January because of his poor health. Chavez was born on July 28, 1954. The son of teachers and raised by his grandmother in a mud hut in rural Venezuela, Chavez's boyhood dream was to be a baseball player in the major leagues, according to Rory Carroll, author of *Comandante*, a biography of the Venezuelan leader. His love of baseball was the initial reason for joining the military. But soon after joining, he became inspired by revolutionary ideals and felt that his country needed a socialist change in its leadership. Rising through the ranks of the military, Chavez served as an army officer before participating in an attempted coup in 1992, for which he served two years in prison. But after his release, he took advantage of his popularity and became president of the South American country in 1999. Soon after taking office, Chavez created a new constitution that, among other things, gave him a longer 6-year term. During his 14-year presidency, Chavez made great strides in reducing poverty in Venezuela with the help of socialist reform programs and oil wealth. However, critics argue that more could have been done with the oil monies and point out that violent crime increased dramatically and the country did too little to reduce it. Although popular, Chavez faced tough opposition from other parties in the country. But with a tough grip on the media and high support among Venezuela's poor, Chavez was able to maintain power until his death. Chavez's final tweet was sent on Feb. 18. He said: "I still clung to Christ and trust in my doctors and nurses. Ever onward to victory! We will live and overcome!"

Mar. 11, 2013

Officials have pulled the business registration of a Greenville bar where the owner was killed year. Raheem Robinson, 38, also known as "Bobby T," was shot and killed in the parking lot of his White Horse Road bar that bore his nickname on Aug. 6, 2012. After his death, family and friends took over the bar and reopened it, saying it was Robinson's dream. The new management said they had security guards on site and checked all their patrons for concealed weapons. About five months later, deputies were called to the same bar after 29-year-old Marcus McGee, of Greenville, was shot and killed in the parking lot. On Jan. 23, Greenville Deputy County

Administrator John Hansley sent a letter to the owners of Bobby T's, now called Z2, stating that the business registration for the establishment had been revoked. In the letter, Hansley cited an unusually high number of calls by law enforcement agencies, frequent arrests for illegal acts during business hours and failure to provide sufficient security measures to protect people and property as reasons for shutting down the nightclub. Betty Barton, the new owner of the bar, said that although the bar has been closed, she appealed the letter because she did not feel it is fair that her right to own a business for the next year will be taken away from her. A manager of the bar told FOX Carolina that the staff feels like they are being treated like the people who pulled the trigger. He said the violence happened outside the bar and the club should not be punished. Barton's hearing was held Monday morning, and the hearing officer has not made his final decision. A spokesman for the county said that Barton's business is allowed to stay open until the appeal process is finished. Deputies arrested David Young in connection with McGee's death. William McKinney was arrested in connection with Robinson's death.

Mar. 12, 2013

Many are familiar with the debate surrounding healthcare and gun control, including U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan who recently organized a listening tour on the Second Amendment. "Fighting for their Second Amendment rights and fighting against this federal government intrusion," Duncan said. And like Duncan, Sen. Lee Bright, R-District 12, believes the federal government needs to butt out of gun control and what he calls other states' rights. "I think this fear of guns is something we need to address as a society because it's not the guns that create the problem," Bright said. So, he along with other lawmakers are supporting nullification bills which are designed to supersede federal laws and regulations. However, Sean O'Rourke, a communications studies professor at Furman University, said the state won't win. "Whatever they end up passing in those areas will not have the weight of the law. And that's because of the Supremacy clause of the federal Constitution, and then after the Civil War, the 14th Amendment, which provides the federal government certain powers of the states," O'Rourke said. He has a law degree and studies South Carolina politics and explains why a nullification bill against healthcare could fail. "The state's not going to be able to nullify that because the Supreme Court has already ruled on the Affordable Care Act and deemed it to be a constitutional use of federal authority," he said. However, he calls the debate over gun control an interesting notion. "At this point we don't know what would be passed. We know there was an assault weapons ban already in place earlier in the 90s," he said. O'Rourke said lawmakers are making a symbolic statement, but Bright said he's fighting to make those nullification bills law.

Mar. 18, 2013

Tim Wetter spent some bonding time with his son Monday night at the Sharp Shooters range in Greenville County. He said he's teaching him about gun safety. "He understands if I teach him, that I will take him shooting, but it has to be in the proper place and in the proper manner," Wetter said. Not only can you practice at the range at Sharp Shooters, but you can also buy bullets and guns too. Those items are shooting off the shelves, but employees said they try to make sure guns don't get into the wrong hands. "Whenever we sell a firearm, we are required by federal law to turn around and run a NIX check, which is through FBI," Ted Landreth said. He's a co-owner of Sharp Shooters and a strong supporter of Second Amendment rights. "You can look around in this store and you won't see any gun in there that wants to jump off the wall and hurt anybody," Landreth said. He also supports a new proposed bill that would require gun shop employees to run a mental health background check in a national database before a potential customer buys a gun. "It's not the gun, it's what's in the people's heart and sometimes what's in their minds," Landreth said. State Rep. Leon Stavrinakis, D-District 119, introduced the bill Monday afternoon in front of Ashley Hall, a private school in Charleston. Police said Alice Boland, a woman with a history of mental illness, pulled the trigger of a pistol several times when an Ashley Hall school employee approached her, but the gun never fired. "We can not afford to wait around for this to happen

again and for us not to be lucky next time," Stavrinakis said. Investigators said Boland bought the gun legally three days before the incident. And Wetter said the database is necessary because not everyone should be a gun owner. "People can have emotional issues and never had been arrested," Wetter said. Counselors who work with those with mental illness said there are different levels of illness and it could be difficult to determine who goes into a database and who doesn't.

Mar. 19, 2013

Gov. Pat McCrory says a new office in his administration will evaluate the best ways that North Carolina students and teachers can be protected so school districts can respond to real and potential dangers. McCrory visited an Apex school Tuesday to unveil the North Carolina Center for Safer Schools being housed in the Department of Public Safety. The Republican governor says government has a responsibility to ensure faculty and students are safe and parents have peace of mind when their children go to school. Public Safety Secretary Kieran Shanahan says the center will hold town hall meetings to get ideas. He says it also will examine mental health issues and what role guns could have in improving safety. McCrory's budget proposal Wednesday will include money for the center.

Mar. 21, 2013

South Carolina health officials are holding their first of four public meetings to hear what foods should be removed from the list of eligible items for people on food stamps. The discussion is part of the Department of Health and Environmental Control's efforts to fight obesity in South Carolina. Gov. Nikki Haley and health officials want the federal government to let the state restrict food stamp purchases of unhealthy foods. Thursday's meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. at the Richland County Council chambers in Columbia. Future meetings are scheduled for March 28 in Florence, April 18 in Greenville and May 2 in North Charleston. Currently, about 878,000 people in South Carolina receive about \$1.4 billion in benefits each year through the federal Supplemental Nutritional program.

Mar. 24, 2013

Hundreds of people rallied in Greenville on Saturday as part of the National Day of Resistance. The protests are aimed at showcasing what organizers said are signs of an overreaching federal government. Rally attendees shared their opinions about the status of the government and proposed ways that it could be improved. "The duties of the federal government are spelled out in the Constitution," said state Rep. Bill Chumley, R-Spartanburg, who attended the rally. "The duties of the states are spelled out in there. All we have to do is follow that, and that's all I'm asking." "If you look at everything that's being done by our federal government, most of it is overstepping," said Bob Patterson, who also attended the rally. Among the topics discussed were healthcare, gun rights and home education. **NOTE:** Originally this story said that "Dozens of people rallied in Greenville," when in fact there were hundreds. Also, Chumley was not identified as a state representative. We apologize for the errors.

*Attachments*



*Environment*

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED  
FIRST QUARTER 2013**

Problem/Need: **ENVIRONMENT**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
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**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS AIRED:**

- Energy Efficiency
- Discovering Nature
- Arbor Day Foundation
- Wildfire Prevention

Jan. 21, 2013

After what has been a fairly mild winter, it's time to break out the heavy coats, scarves and gloves as forecasters said the coldest air of the season has arrived in the western Carolinas. FOX Carolina Chief Meteorologist Kendra Kent said a cold front moved through the region, bringing in the Arctic blast of air. Kent said temperatures will quickly drop Monday night, forcing temperatures into the teens for the mountains and 20s for the Upstate. She said that winds between 15 to 20 mph in the mountains will produce wind chills of -6 degrees in the mountains and in the teens for the Upstate. The National Weather Service issued a wind chill advisory for Mitchell and Yancey counties in North Carolina from midnight until noon Tuesday. Kent said temperatures will struggle to the middle 40s on Tuesday in the Upstate. She said the mountains will top out in the upper 20s Tuesday. Highs are forecast to reach 50 degrees before another cold snap arrives by the weekend, Kent said.

Jan. 22, 2013

Eight houses in seven days will be deliberately set ablaze in Spartanburg to help firefighters improve their ability to battle blazes. A grant paid for the weeklong experiment aimed at training and learning better safety procedures for emergency workers. The Fire Division of the Spartanburg Public Safety Department joined with state and international agencies to research how things react to flames and the best way to fight fires. "The research we're conducting here has the potential to change how firefighters, not only in South Carolina, but in the nation, begin their initial tactics in fighting the fires," said Spartanburg Fire Chief Marion Blackwell. SLIDESHOW: Fire experiment conducted in Spartanburg Twenty-seven firefighters were part of Monday's burn, which was concentrating on how furniture catches on fire. Blackwell said each lot will be cleared after the homes are burned as part of a redevelopment plan for the north side of Spartanburg.

Jan. 24, 2013

As the threat of icy weather moved in, some across the Upstate reported spotty sleet in their backyards Friday morning, prompting several Upstate schools and businesses to close early. FOX Carolina received several calls from residents in the Easley, Berea, Travelers Rest and other northern Upstate areas where they said they saw sleet and ice. In preparation for the icy weather, crews across the Upstate began treating roads with anti-icing agents for Friday. The National Weather Service issued a winter weather advisory for most of the western Carolinas and northeast Georgia from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday. Abbeville, Greenwood and Elbert counties were also added to the advisory. Madison, McDowell, Mitchell and Yancey counties' advisory was upgraded to a winter storm warning, with up to 0.5" of sleet possible and freezing rain accumulating with a chance for dangerous glazing throughout the day. Several Upstate school districts dismissed early at 10 a.m. including Greenville, Pickens, Oconee counties and Anderson Districts One, Three and Four elementary. Anderson District Five and District Four Middle and High students dismissed at 11 a.m. along with all Spartanburg County districts and some Laurens County districts. Abbeville County, Anderson District Two and Union County announced noon dismissals. Some school districts in Greenwood along with Union county also announced early dismissals. Additionally, several local colleges including Clemson University, Furman University and Wofford College closed for the day. A complete list of school and business closings can be found [here](#). SLIDESHOW: Best of iWitness sleet, icy weather pics

Temperatures dropped into the middle 20s in the Upstate and near 20 degrees in the mountains Friday morning, allowing for a snow, sleet and freezing rain mix to fall across the Upstate, western North Carolina and northeast Georgia, which should last until about noon, according to FOX Carolina Meteorologist Alex Wilson. Wilson said the freezing rain continue from noon until 4 p.m., mostly in the northern Upstate and western North Carolina. She said there be some spotty freezing rain in the southern part of the Upstate. FOX Carolina Chief Meteorologist Kendra Kent said the accumulations of ice will range from 0.05" in the lower elevations to nearly 0.2" in the southwestern mountains of North Carolina. She said in the northwest Upstate, up to 0.1" accumulation is possible, with bridges and overpasses becoming slick. Even a little ice can cause problems on the roads, Kent said. She said a glaze of ice will be possible on mainly bridges and overpasses in the Upstate. "That's where our biggest concerns are," said Scott Allison, of the South Carolina Department of Transportation. "Our conditions could deteriorate from lunchtime to whenever everybody gets off work" For that reason, crews began spraying salt brine on bridges and overpasses. SCDOT crews concentrated on interstates in the area before moving to bridges in the county. School leaders in Greenville County kept a watchful eye on the forecast. Oby Lyles, spokesman for Greenville County Schools, said there are more than 20 people involved in the decision to cancel classes. "We try to make it as soon as possible, because we want to make it before buses roll," Lyles said. "Sometimes, it could be you close school for the day. It could be a two-hour delay or more than that." Allison said no matter what happens, everyone should prepare for the worst. "Stock up on your supplies before noon tomorrow," Allison said. "Be ready to not be able to travel for 24 hours on those back roads." While most Upstate roads were not covered in ice by noon on Friday, the Highway Patrol reported numerous accidents across the area. Temperatures will drop into the 20s again Friday night before climbing into the upper 40s by Saturday afternoon.

Jan. 30, 2013

The day after a line of powerful storms moved through the western Carolinas, thousands remain without power and several streets are closed because of rising water. By 8 p.m., the worst of the weather had moved east of the region. The heavy rain produced by the storms prompted flash flood warnings for many locations in the mountains of North Carolina. By Thursday morning, a flood warning was still in effect for Transylvania and Henderson counties and expected to last until Friday morning. A flood advisory was also issued for Buncombe and Madison counties until late morning. Pit Crew Traffic reported a few Asheville-area road closures because of flooding concerns Thursday morning. Northeast of Fletcher, Cane Creek Road at U.S. 74 was closed near Cane

Creek. South of downtown Asheville near the Swannanoa River, Meadow Road at Hendersonville Road/U.S. 25 was closed. And on the north side of downtown, Riverside Drive at Pearson Bridge Road was closed at the French Broad River. SLIDESHOW: Powerful storms cause damage, flooding There were more reports of street flooding on Wednesday in Asheville, Hendersonville and Clemson. A woman was rescued from the roof of her car in Transylvania County after she ran into flood waters near Davidson River Road. Flooding near Brevard even prompted the American Red Cross to open a shelter Wednesday night. The North Carolina Department of Transportation reminds drivers to not attempt to cross flooded roads even if it seems shallow because 2 feet of rushing water can carry away cars, SUVs and pickups. While winds increased ahead of the squall line Wednesday, most had died down across the area by midnight. A wind advisory was still in effect for most of western North Carolina until 6 p.m. Thursday. The high winds ahead of the storms and inside the storms knocked down dozens of trees and power lines across western North Carolina. According to Duke Energy's website, nearly 13,000 customers were without power Wednesday night. Most of the outages were across western North Carolina, with more than 7,300 still without power Thursday morning. In Inman, several homes were evacuated after high winds broke power poles, causing the lines to fall on the roofs. Schools, business, colleges, churches and government agencies changed their schedules because of the threat of severe weather. Meteorologist Alex Wilson said snow showers began along the North Carolina-Tennessee border Wednesday night, where a winter weather advisory was issued. She said accumulations will generally be light, but slick roads could cause problems, with snow showers wrapping up by mid-to-late morning. Kent said sunshine and much cooler weather will return to the region by Thursday with highs struggling to reach 50 degrees in some locations.

Feb. 14, 2013

As a powerful storm system exited the western Carolinas on Thursday after dumping heavy rain and some snow, most were left to avoid black ice and clean up after some storm damage. The storm dumped several inches of rain on much of the area during the day, causing rivers and creeks to rapidly rise and prompting flash flood warnings for some. Strong winds aided by soft ground from the downpours pushed down trees onto homes and across roadways. Duke Energy reported more than 10,000 power outages across the western Carolinas. More than 2,600 of those outages were reported in Greenville County. SLIDESHOW: Trees, rain, snow fall during powerful January storm The heavy rain eventually changed over to a brief period of snow for the mountains of North Carolina, where some locations picked up as much as 3 inches of accumulation. In the Upstate, locations north of the Interstate 85 corridor reported a wintry mix, but with no accumulation. FOX Carolina Chief Meteorologist Kendra Kent said the runoff from Thursday's torrential rain could freeze as temperatures drop below freezing late. She said the most widespread black-ice problems will be in the mountains, but some patchy ice could be seen on Upstate roads Friday morning. Officials began preparing for the worst when snow was mentioned in the forecast. "We are preparing," said Greenville Public Works Director Mike Murphy. "We have our equipment on standby. We [have] the manpower on standby." Murphy said his crews would be monitoring temperatures on mainly bridges and overpasses overnight, since they are usually the first places to freeze. In the mountains, crews there said they were preparing to treat roads when the rain ended. They said the liquid precipitation would wash away any treatment that was placed on the roads. The black ice shouldn't be a problem for long, though. Temperatures are forecast to climb into the 50s on Friday, with sunshine returning.

Feb. 15, 2013

Clemson utility officials said heavy rainfall caused a sewer to overflow at a local pump station Thursday. The overflow happened at pump station number nine near 303 Mountain View Ln. in Clemson Thursday afternoon, releasing nearly 500 gallons of sewage, according to the city. Officials said the overflow reached Lake Hartwell nearby, prompting a recommendation for people to stay clear of the lake for the next week. Mountain View Lane is off of College Avenue, just north of US 123. Local residents with questions are asked to contact the Utilities Department at 864-653-2046.

Feb. 25, 2013

An overnight ice storm took down trees and power lines across the mountains, leaving thousands without electricity. With temperatures hovering near freezing, Monday night's rain froze to limbs, roads, signs, bridges and overpasses across the mountains, producing a glaze of ice. The National Weather Service reported a half-inch of ice had fallen in Fairview, NC. A quarter-inch of ice was reported in Weaverville, East Flat Rock and Saluda, all in North Carolina. Pictures from FOX Carolina iWitness "Wizard" showed a thick coating of ice covering the blooming trees in Black Mountain. Some trees had reportedly fallen, including one that was blocking Altamont Road near Lake Circle Drive in northern Greenville County in South Carolina on Tuesday morning. The ice seemed to cause most of the trouble in the mountains of North Carolina. Duke Energy reported more than 2,500 customers without power in Henderson County and more than 1,200 in McDowell County. The American Red Cross opened a shelter at its office in Hendersonville at 203 Second Ave. E. People who want to use the shelter should bring their essentials with them, officials said. The rain ended for most of the area by Tuesday afternoon, but winds remained gusty. A wind advisory was in effect for most of the mountains until 6 p.m. According to the National Weather Service, winds could gust as high as 40 mph. Clear skies and warmer temperatures return for mid-week, Kent said.

Feb. 26, 2013


Foggy conditions likely in the Upstate tonight, while a northwest breeze will take over in the mountains and bring some light snow showers near the TN border! Wednesday will stay mostly cloudy in the mountains with highs near 50, while the Upstate will likely reach 60 under sunshine. There will be breezy winds area-wide through Wednesday as a cold front passes to our south. Thursday and Friday will bring a northwest snow event for the mountains (a prolonged one!). Snow won't be all that heavy, but several inches will accumulate near the TN border through late week. During the time we'll stay clear in the Upstate. By Friday another front moves through and that will help set the stage for potential Upstate snow on Saturday. On Saturday, the cold air in place will deepen as a trough digs farther south. Upper level energy will swing through during the day, and that will translate to light snow and rain showers on Saturday. Our computer models remain fairly consistent on these features, but the GFS model is the most excited about the snow prospect as of now. Regardless, Saturday and Sunday look cold. Moisture and the strength of the upper level energy is going to be in question. Right now I'd say we could get a dusting to inch of snow in some Upstate areas if the GFS model holds, but my overall forecast is for scattered snow showers and minimal accumulations. There will be more in the mountains. Timing for some snow to fall will be late Friday through Saturday, with the best chance for snow coming late day Saturday. Late Friday night through Saturday night timing. Best chance would be late day Saturday. Cold air should be in place, but the upper level energy will be in question. Either way, this doesn't look like a big deal. Light accumulations possibly by Saturday night in the Upstate and northeast GA. Stay posted on the forecast...since a

lot could change! If a surface low can develop closer to us, that could mean a bigger snow. OR, we could end up with a cold and dry day! Oh, the joys of winter weather forecasting!

Feb. 28, 2013

A western North Carolina man was arrested after forestry officials said he failed to pay an Upstate landowner what he owed him. The South Carolina Forestry Commission charged Tim Gosnell, 40, of Rutherfordton, with two counts related to the underpaid timber deal. Forestry agents said Gosnell agreed to chop down and transport timber for the Cherokee County landowner, but when he failed to pay the full amount for the timbers' sale and provide proper documentation from the mill for the harvested timber, the owner contacted forestry officials. While he initially paid the owner \$1,000, forestry officials said Gosnell did not pay him what else he was owed, which they were still working to determine how much money that was. Authorities said Gosnell was charged with failure to pay the landowner within 45 days and one count of violating the scale ticket law. He was released from jail on bond. Forestry officials said timber crimes are not the norm, but because the forestry industry in South Carolina has an annual \$17 billion impact on the state's economy and 88 percent of forest lands are privately owned, they actively investigate criminal complaints. Investigators said additional charges are possible and the South Carolina Forestry Commission is urging landowners who may have complaints against Gosnell to contact them at 803-896-8838.

March 15, 2013

Neighbors who live on Altamont Road leading to the top of Paris Mountain are circulating a petition to block the area's rezoning for a new development. Developers from Greenfields Consortium LLC want to rezone 50 acres to build a new community that includes about 75 condos and a restaurant. At Monday night's Greenville County Council meeting, Eric Kaufmann will share his plans and neighbors will have their chance to oppose them. Altera is Kaufmann's community, designed to showcase condos, a lake house with restaurant, spa, arts and crafts center and nature trails. The website for Altera claims that its architecture and footprint design are environmentally sound, with about 88 percent of the 50 acres remaining untouched and green. But current neighbors are concerned about extra traffic on the one winding road, potential sewage and septic problems and crowding issues. Perry Weinberg lives in Altamont Forest, a single-home style development that would overlook Altera if it's built. He said most homes along the ridge will see the new multi-story condominium in their view. Neighbors on Catamount are also concerned about septic and ReWa issues since Catamount Forest had problems that the county needed to come in and clean up. Altamont resident Jason Kraning said that the Paris Mountain community isn't zoned for multi-family housing for a reason. He started a petition against the rezoning application  Tuesday night, which already has almost 700 signatures only two days later. "There's absolute uproar. People in the community, even if they don't live on Paris Mountain, don't want to see a condominium on top of it," said Kraning. "They just don't want to see it, they have a love affair with Paris Mountain, the state park is right below it, it's a beautiful natural environment and that's what we're trying to keep." Kraning is worried about overcrowding, as well as too many drivers on the curvy road. Last summer, the developer had the property approved by the planning commission to build about 75 single family homes. On Monday, Kaufmann is expected to take it a step further to change the zoning for his land. Step two comes later in March. The planning commission will meet, and their recommendation, plus the Zoning Administration's recommendation, will go to the County Council. April's council meeting would be the first vote, and if passed, it would need to pass a second vote. Councilman Sid Cates has Paris Mountain in his district. He said his main concern is about whether the waste facility will be able to handle the new sewage and then whether the 74 units should be condos or single homes.

March 22, 2013

Scientists at a lab at the Savannah River Site are studying ways to power vehicles using natural gas. The Savannah River National Laboratory is partnering with Ford Motor Company, the University of California-Berkeley and BASF. The project is funded by a \$5.5 million grant by the U.S. Department of Energy. Researchers say they are looking at ways to develop high performance fuel systems to use next-generation metal-organic frameworks that can absorb natural gas at high densities. Officials say the research at SRNL is one of 13 research projects splitting \$30 million to find ways to harness America's abundant natural gas supplies for cars and trucks, and expand the use of natural gas as a vehicle fuel.

March 25, 2013

A new sharp-toothed fish that bites could soon call South Carolina home. Piranha's are things you see in the movies and places like the Amazon. A group of scientists said global warming could make our waters just right for piranhas. The report released along with the South Carolina Wildlife Agency said piranhas could make their way to our state in the next 70 years, but the SC Department of Natural Resources isn't worried. DNR Capt. Robert McCullough told us there would have to be several major changes to the weather for piranhas to invade South Carolina waters. "Our water here in the state don't get cold enough where they can survive in our ecosystem right now," he said. Rising temperatures in Florida have already caused piranhas to move into those waters, but experts here don't believe they will call South Carolina home.

*Attachments*



*Education*

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED  
FIRST QUARTER 2013**

Problem/Need: **EDUCATION**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
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**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS AIRED**

- Dropout Prevention
- Nutrition Education
- Literacy
- GED
- College Access

Jan. 8, 2013

The secretary of a Gaffney school's parent-teacher organization was arrested after Cherokee County deputies said she stole more than \$5,000 from the group. Deputies said that between Oct. 6 and Dec. 3, Hope Minor, 35, of Gaffney, forged checks on the account for the Draytonville Elementary School PTO. Minor was charged with breach of trust. She was released from the county jail on bond.

Jan. 8, 2013

Greenville County deputies said that the man who fled after being wounded in a shooting, prompting a lockdown at a nearby school, was arrested Tuesday night. The shooting happened about 2:15 p.m. at 1 Willis Ave. Deputies said a friend of the people who live at the home stopped by and asked for some change. They said when a man at the home pulled out some money, the friend grabbed it and a struggle ensued. They said that during the struggle, the friend pulled out a gun, firing a shot and wounding a woman in the home in the hand. They said that the struggle continued between the man and the friend and the gun fired a second time, wounding the friend. They said the friend then fled the scene in a vehicle. In response to the shooting, deputies advised officials at nearby Alexander Elementary School to lock down as they searched for the gunman. Officials with Greenville County Schools said the person who fled the scene was last seen in the parking lot of the school. Officials with Greenville County Schools said the lockdown was lifted just after 3 p.m. and that students were supervised by deputies as they were released from school. Lt. Tim Ridgeway, of the sheriff's office, said the man who fled was identified as Joseph Anthony. He was located in the 3000 block of Old Buncombe Road in Sans Souci just after 8 p.m. He said Anthony was suffering from a gunshot wound to the stomach and was taken to Greenville Memorial for treatment.

Jan. 9, 2013

Clemson University is getting a \$1 million donation from the founders of the marketing and advertising firm Erwin Penland to establish a center for communication studies. Clemson President James Barker says the gift from Joe and Gretchen Erwin will set up the Erwin Center for the Study of Advertising and Communication. The gift provides for five new courses that focus on advertising and communication. Many of the courses are being taught in collaboration with associates at Erwin Penland, which is a 400-person agency with offices in Greenville, New York and Detroit. The university's communications studies department includes focus on sports, law and health communication.

Jan. 14, 2013

Longtime former college football coach and ESPN broadcaster Lou Holtz received an honorary doctorate of education as featured speaker at the University of South Carolina's commencement ceremonies Monday. Holtz coached the Gamecocks for six seasons from 1999-2004. He had the only winless season of his career while at South Carolina, going 0-11 in 1999 before the team rebounded with a 17-7 record and win consecutive Outback Bowls the next two years. Holtz retired from coaching in 2004 with current coach Steve Spurrier taking over at South Carolina. Holtz says he thought he laid a firm foundation for the football team that Spurrier has taken to a higher level. The 11th-ranked Gamecocks (10-2) face No. 19 Michigan (8-4) in the Outback Bowl on New Year's Day.

Jan. 17, 2013

Clemson University President James Barker underwent quintuple bypass surgery Friday morning. Barker said in a statement released Thursday that doctors discovered blockages in his heart during an exam, which required triple bypass surgery. However, in a statement released Friday afternoon, Barker's wife, Marcia, said her husband ended up needing five bypasses instead. "Otherwise, there were no surprises," Marcia Barker said. "Well, it may have been a surprise to see that he's orange on the inside, too!" The president said he delegated his responsibilities to Provost Doris Helms, who was authorized by the Board of Trustees Friday morning via a resolution to assume his duties and manage the business operations of the university while he recovers. James Barker said in his statement that he expected to be hospitalized for about a week, followed by a period of leave to complete his recovery.

Jan. 24, 2013

Nearly half of South Carolina's 342 new school buses are coming to school districts in the Upstate, according to the South Carolina Department of Education. Superintendent Mick Zais said Thursday that students with disabilities are much more likely to get to school on time, and the savings from operating new buses means more money for classrooms. South Carolina spent \$28 million on buses costing \$82,000 each. The oldest buses in South Carolina's fleet carry students with disabilities. Some have logged more than half a million miles. The new arrivals will replace all models from 1984 through 1987, plus some from 1988. They include lifts and wheelchair spaces. Education Department spokesman Jay Ragley said 104 of the buses are earmarked for school districts for all 10 of the counties in the Upstate. The last significant purchase was 529 buses during the 2007-08 school year. In 2007, legislators approved replacing the statewide fleet every 15 years, but they ignored the law amid the economic downturn.

Feb. 1, 2013

The son of Blue Ridge Christian Academy's principal turned himself in to Greenville County deputies after authorities said he threatened his classmates last month. Deputy Jonathan Smith, public information officer for the Greenville County Sheriff's Office, said 17-year-old Mason Bird got into an argument with a fellow student during class on Dec. 19. He said that during the argument Bird said he would come into the school with a gun and shoot his classmates. Smith said the statement caught the attention of other students who became quiet. He said that a teacher told Bird the statement was inappropriate and informed the school's administration about it. Bird was charged with disturbing school and turned himself in to authorities last Thursday, Smith said. Smith said Bird was not allowed to return to school after making the statement. Bird's attorney, Frank Eppes, said the school is conducting an investigation to determine whether the facts of the case warrant Bird's dismissal from school.

Feb. 11, 2013

As tuition prices rise, some students are looking for different ways to pay for college and one controversial dating website claims they are helping students do just that. It's called [seekingarrangement.com](http://seekingarrangement.com) and it's an online meeting place for people looking for a "mutually beneficial relationship." The site offers a meeting place for people looking to make an arrangement which consists of a relationship in exchange for money. The website claims students at the University of South Carolina are joining fast and looking for someone to pay for school. They say so far 52 students at USC have joined this year. So, FOX Carolina asked students at USC Upstate what they thought of the website and this type of "tuition assistance." "If it's helping people pay for school these days with crazy tuition costs ... whatever," said Janna McClure, a student at USC Upstate. "I'm thinking as long as the girl or guy is of age and they are willing to be with that sugar daddy or sugar momma ... why not. They are going to school they are using the money for good. Why not," said Chris Clark, a student at USC Upstate. The website says the average sugar mamma or daddy makes about \$250,000 a year and some of those relationships result in marriage. Some argue while you may pass those college exams you may not pass the character exam if you choose to sign up.

Feb. 11, 2013

The State Board of Education has disciplined 18 South Carolina teachers in the past two years for sexual offenses against students. [The State of Columbia](#) reports that the latest teacher disciplined is Kinsley Wentzky, a Dreher High School teacher who had her teaching certificate suspended last week after she was charged with two counts of sexual battery with a student. Education officials entered Wentzky's name into a national database of suspended teachers. Wentzky's lawyer says he didn't know his client's license was suspended and wouldn't talk about the case. The State Board of Education has reprimanded or suspended or revoked the licenses of 143 teachers in South Carolina since the beginning of 2011 for problems ranging from coming to school drunk to defaulting on loans for teacher certification exams.

Feb. 14, 2013

Off-duty officers will begin patrolling elementary schools and other centers that don't have an on-campus security presence in Greenville County on Tuesday. School district officials said the officers will be from the Greenville County Sheriff's Office and the Greenville and Mauldin police departments. The officers will patrol schools in defined areas several times each day, but the schedule will vary so routines are not established, officials said. They said the officers will check both the inside and outside of the buildings, monitor school

entrances, assess security procedures and provide a visible law enforcement presence each day. "While school remains one of the safest locations for young people, we must continually evaluate and enhance school security," said Greenville County Schools Superintendent W. Burke Royster. Royster said the new patrols will be used in conjunction with regular lockdown and safety drills, required visitor sign-in, secure school entries, video monitoring, telephones in classrooms and additional safety training for school staff. Security breaches or ideas about enhancing the school district's safety procedures can be shared with officials by calling 452-SAFE (864-452-7233).

Feb. 15, 2013

Clemson University President James Barker underwent quintuple bypass surgery Friday morning. Barker said in a statement released Thursday that doctors discovered blockages in his heart during an exam, which required triple bypass surgery. However, in a statement released Friday afternoon, Barker's wife, Marcia, said her husband ended up needing five bypasses instead. "Otherwise, there were no surprises," Marcia Barker said. "Well, it may have been a surprise to see that he's orange on the inside, too!" The president said he delegated his responsibilities to Provost Doris Helms, who was authorized by the Board of Trustees Friday morning via a resolution to assume his duties and manage the business operations of the university while he recovers. James Barker said in his statement that he expected to be hospitalized for about a week, followed by a period of leave to complete his recovery.

Feb. 19, 2013

South Carolina's state-run college savings program saw a 16 percent increase in the amount of money invested last year. State Treasurer Curtis Loftis said Tuesday that more than \$36 million was put into the Future Scholar program in December, a 48 percent increase over December 2011. The program now has more than \$1.6 billion invested. Loftis says lower expenses and fees, combined with a lower minimum to invest and a marketing campaign helped fuel the growth of the 529 college savings program. Future Scholar allows parents, relatives and friends to contribute tax-free money toward a child's college education. The money is invested and can be removed from the account without paying taxes to pay for college expenses.

Feb. 20, 2013

A Boiling Springs High School student was suspended last week after administrators said he wrote inappropriate phrases in his planner. Spartanburg District 2 Superintendent Scott Mercer said the planner was turned over to administrators after it was found by another student. He said the phrases "Columbine forever" and "Kill all Jews" were written inside, as well as a drawing of a swastika. Mercer said a mental health expert concluded the 15-year-old sophomore is not a threat to other students. In addition to his suspension, the student will attend an alternative school for the remainder of the school year, Mercer said. He said officials will then assess the boy to see if he can return to school. The student does not face any criminal charges. On April 20, 1999, 12 students and a teacher were killed in a mass shooting at Columbine High School in Colorado.

Feb. 22, 2013

Friday's icy weather prompted officials to cancel SAT testing scheduled for Saturday at several Upstate high schools. Officials said the college-admission test was canceled at Berea and Hillcrest high schools in Greenville County, Broome and Dorman high schools in Spartanburg County, Daniel and Pickens high schools in Pickens County and West Oak High School in Oconee County. Questions about the cancellations should be directed to each school district's main office.

March 6, 2013

Sex education in South Carolina is on the table for change, according to a grassroots group and a state representative proposing an addendum to the 1988 Comprehensive Health Education Act. The Health Education Act was put into place 25 years ago. It laid out the requirements for school districts to create their own sex education programs, but there are not any requirements for schools to report back with the lessons taught. Since the 1980s, some districts have updated their lesson plans, but none of the state mandated requirements have changed. New Morning Foundation released results of a study about the last 25 years of sex education in South Carolina. It found that 75 percent of schools are not teaching sex education according to state guidelines. The study found that in the places that do have proper teaching training [which is not required] and updated curriculum, teen pregnancy decreased. That updated curriculum teaches not only abstinence but also contraception methods. In places that did not have updated lessons, New Morning Foundation's program TellThemSC.org said the same problems of high teen pregnancy rates and high HIV and STD rates remain. "South Carolina spends \$197 million every year on the repercussions of teen pregnancy. That's a big number that we can change," said Emma Davidson, with TellThemSC.org. The grassroots group is working to get South Carolina legislators on board to strengthen state sex ed policies. Pickens County Rep. B.R. Skelton took the lead. Last week, he introduced an amendment to the current Health Education Act. It includes requiring certification for teachers who teach health education, as well as making sure local school district curriculums are based on medical facts, they are updated every two years and that each district needs to report its compliance. For now, each school district can set their own lesson plans as long as they follow state guidelines, but no one ever checks on it because it is not required. State Department of Education officials told FOX Carolina they would support compliance measures to keep an eye on districts across the state.

March 9, 2013

A former Spartanburg science teacher was arrested Friday after deputies said she had an inappropriate relationship with a 14-year-old student. Spartanburg County deputies said the boy's parents said on Jan. 30 that their son had inappropriate communication with his teacher, 29-year-old Courtney Kay, of Spartanburg, via Facebook. They said that during their investigation, they found that there was also inappropriate touching between the boy and Kay on school grounds. Deputies said that Kay, a science teacher at Spartanburg High School Freshman Academy, resigned her position on Jan. 30. Kay was charged with third-degree criminal sexual conduct with a minor. She was released from jail on a \$15,000 personal recognizance bond Saturday morning. Kay has been ordered to have no contact with the victim or other students at the school electronically or in person. According to the report, the parents of the victim feel he has been adversely affected by the incident, and are seeking counseling.

March 13, 2013

An effort to let the governor choose South Carolina's education chief has failed in the Senate, but supporters vow to try again. A measure asking voters whether they want to continue electing the state superintendent failed 27-16. That was four votes shy of the two-thirds needed to put a constitutional referendum on the ballot. Senate Judiciary Chairman Larry Martin supports the measure but switched sides as he realized the motion would fail. That enabled him to resurrect the issue. After his request for a do-over vote passed, the Senate adjourned. A vote to kill a bill outright on the floor is rare. Martin says senators in charge of the pre-vote head-counting did a sorry job. Previous attempts to put the question to voters haven't gotten this far in the Senate.

March 15, 2013

An Anderson County highway is closed following a crash that took down power lines Friday morning, knocking out power to Wren-area schools. The Highway Patrol said Highway 86 was blocked at Wigington Road because of the downed lines. Authorities said a car knocked down a power pole at 4:45 a.m. Troopers said the intersection would be closed until power lines were repaired and removed from across the roadway. Anderson School District One Superintendent Dr. Wayne Fowler said Wren High, Middle and Elementary schools would be closed Friday because of the outage. He said Duke Energy told them it would take until about noon to repair the downed lines and get power back on. A Duke Energy spokesperson said when the crash happened, nearly 1,000 pages lost power, but by 9 a.m., less than 400 customers remained without power though it had been restored to the schools. She said they expected to have power back on to everyone by 1 p.m. Troopers said traffic lights in the area were out and drivers should expect to be detoured.

March 19, 2013

A worker at a bookstore on the Clemson University campus was arrested after police said he stole money from the store. Campus police said Tuesday that 37-year-old David Graham, of Clemson, took the refunds from returns made to the store and deposited the proceeds into his personal bank account. They said Graham stole a total of \$2,123.19 between May 2012 and January. Graham worked as a supervisor of a bookstore in the Hendrix Student Center, but was neither an employee nor a student of the school, police said. Graham was charged with breach of trust with fraudulent intent. He was released from jail on \$5,000 bond.

March 20, 2013

Small fires and a subsequent chase near Woodmont High School prompted a lockdown Wednesday afternoon. Greenville County Master Deputy Laura Campbell said deputies were called to the intersection of West Georgia and Reedy Fork roads about a fire. She said that when deputies arrived a couple of children ran away. She said deputies caught up with one of them. Campbell said investigators are trying to determine if the children, who were not students at the school, were responsible for the fires. Oby Lyles, spokesman for Greenville County Schools, was locked down at 1:10 p.m. He said the lockdown was lifted about 20 minutes later. He said the chase was the reason for the lockdown.

March 20, 2013

Smoking and inhaling candy is what fourth- and fifth-grade students in at least one Upstate school have been doing, according to the principal. Fountain Inn Elementary School's Principal Glenn Wile sent a letter home to parents on Tuesday, warning them that while the candy may not be real drugs, the inhaling behavior is inappropriate and won't be tolerated. The candies of choice are Fun Dip and Smarties, according to the letter. Fun Dip is a flavored sugar and crushed Smarties turn into a similar powdery consistency. Staff at Fountain Inn Elementary said they've never seen kids try to inhale the candies like they have been recently, but they hope not to see it again. It all started a week and a half ago. Wile said students were crushing up Smarties and sucking them in, "creating a puff of smoke." Wile said there were 31 kids involved, half boys, half girls, and their parents were all called. He said this past Tuesday, a different child was caught doing a similar thing with Fun Dip. "We felt like we needed to send something out to all of our parents, letting them know the concern at school, the inappropriateness of that type of thing at school, and more than that ... just to make our parents aware of the simulation of a behavior that we felt like they needed to be aware for their children," said Wile. That awareness is important, said Adam Brickner, the director of the Phoenix Center, Greenville's drug rehabilitation center. He was surprised at how creative kids are getting, saying they have figured out ways to, "Emulate what they're seeing in the media and possibly at home." Brickner thinks it's sad that kids as young as elementary school are doing this. "The drug itself is not the concern here. The Smarties' dust is not the concern. The concern is the behavior of the children," said Brickner. He said inhaling candy may have respiratory affects but isn't addictive. Brickner said the problem is that they're emulating risky adult behaviors. The positive side to this is that it is a good time for parents to start talking to their kids about drugs. "Even though kids often act like they're not listening, and they're not paying attention, parents are the number one influence in the children's behavior," Brickner said. "They have to set appropriate boundaries. The kids will push up against them and they'll fight them, but parents have to set the boundaries and then stick to the boundaries." Wile said Fun Dip, Smarties and any other candy that could be powdered, is now banned from the school. He said anyone seen inhaling candy again will be suspended.

March 22, 2013

Furman University has petitioned the Travelers Rest City Council to be incorporated into the northern Greenville County town. Vince Moore, spokesman for the school, said that the school recently switched to fire services provided by Travelers Rest after negotiations failed in December between the school and its previous fire services provider of nearly 40 years - Duncan Chapel. Moore said part of the agreement with Travelers Rest was that the school, which is currently part of unincorporated Greenville County, would petition to become part of the city. The petitions must pass two readings of the council before it is approved, Moore said. He said the first reading would happen sometime in March or April, and the second reading would happen shortly after the first. Moore said that if the incorporation is approved, the school would continue to provide its own police, water and power services. Travelers Rest will not see an increase in tax revenues, because Furman, which is a non-profit university, is exempt from them, Moore said. However, he said, the town will see an increase in fees like business licenses and vehicle registration fees. Travelers Rest City Administrator Diana Turner could not immediately be reached for comment Friday night.

March 25, 2013

South Carolina Educational Television officials say layoffs are likely as it loses nearly \$600,000 in funding because of mandatory federal budget cuts. The State of Columbia reports that SCETV President Linda O'Bryon told senators the loss of that money will mean layoff, but she doesn't know how many employees will be let go or what programs might be ended. The agency operates four production facilities, 11 television and eight radio

towers, and 600 microwave towers across South Carolina. SCETV has lost 95 employees since 2008, and its state funding has fallen from \$16.5 million to about \$9 million. The agency current has about 130 employees. SCETV is losing \$588,000 in grant support from the Corporation of Public Broadcasting, a federally created

March 26, 2013

Some North Carolina lawmakers want to require that school children learn how to write and multiply even in today's modern world. A legislative committee on Tuesday approved a proposal to change state law and require public schools to teach cursive handwriting and force students to memorize their multiplication tables. The proposal now moves to the House budget-writing committee. The back-to-basics bill approved by the House Education Committee directs schools to teach handwriting so that students can write legible documents before finishing fifth grade. The proposal had little opposition. But some legislators wondered if fifth-grade teachers would be held accountable for students who didn't develop their skills. Others noted the bill doesn't define how to judge students' competency in multiplication.

March 27, 2013

Legislators want to make it easier for veterans to go to college in South Carolina by paying tuition at in-state rates. But bills differ on how to do that. A bill the House passed last week would waive the one-year residency requirement for veterans and their dependents who prove they intend to make South Carolina their permanent home. It would allow them to enroll immediately in a public college without paying up to \$18,000 extra. The director of a veterans group prefers the Senate version that's stalled in subcommittee. It allows the in-state rate for anyone attending college on the GI Bill, mimicking a U.S. House proposal. Jim Lorraine of the Augusta-Aiken Warrior Project says lawmakers shouldn't throw up residency roadblocks for veterans who want to go to college.

*Attachments*



*Quality of Life*

**ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED  
FIRST QUARTER 2013**

Problem/Need: **QUALITY OF LIFE**

<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>TIME</u></b>	<b><u>PROGRAM</u></b>
Sundays	6:00am	MOUNT MORIAH BAPTIST CHURCH
<u>Description:</u> A church service airing Sunday mornings. (1-hour)		
Sundays	8:30am	MUD CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
<u>Description:</u> A church service that airs every Sunday morning. (30:00)		
Sundays	9:30 am	TAYLORS FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
<u>Description:</u> A church service that airs every Sunday morning. (30:00)		
Sundays	10:30am	FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
<u>Description:</u> A church service that airs every Sunday morning and Saturday night. (30:00)		

**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS AIRED:**

- Pet Adoption
- Hands on Greenville
- Let There Be Mom
- Habitat For Humanity

Jan. 9, 2013

A legislative panel will consider changes to make it tougher to manufacture meth, including requiring a prescription for cold remedies containing one of the main ingredients. A House committee is meeting Wednesday to discuss recommendations for the 2013 legislative session, which begins Jan. 30. Among the possibilities is requiring a prescription for cold medicines containing pseudoephedrine, a key ingredient in making meth. Pharmacies now must enter customers into a national database when they buy cold medicine containing pseudoephedrine. The database blocks the sale if the person has gone on a buying spree for the drug. The committee also will consider increasing penalties for manufacturing meth when children are present. Meth is a potent stimulant that can be cooked up from over-the-counter household products, often leaving behind a toxic mess.

Jan. 12, 2013

It was very close for Miss South Carolina and Laurens native Ali Rogers at the Miss America Pageant in Las Vegas on Saturday night, but Miss New York ended up taking home the crown. Rogers was the runner-up to Mallory Hagan after the judges whittled down the field of more than 50 contestants to just five at the end of the competition. Miss Iowa Mariah Carey was fourth runner-up, Miss Wyoming Lexie Madden was third runner-up and Miss Oklahoma Alicia Clifton was second runner-up. Residents of Laurens said Friday they were very proud of their native daughter. Businesses and churches posted signs of support for the beauty queen. Some even made posters showing their support of Rogers. "It's just hard to believe it's real," said Ali's mother, Adair Rogers. Only two contestants from South Carolina have been crowned Miss America in the pageant's 92-year history. The first winner from the Palmetto State came in 1957 when Marian McKnight, of Manning, took home the top prize. In 1994, Kimberly Aiken, of Columbia, became the second winner from South Carolina to be crowned Miss America. She was only the fifth African American to carry the title. Rogers will take over the title if the reigning Miss America is unable to fulfill her duties. California, Oklahoma and Ohio are tied for the most Miss America titles at six each.

Jan. 15, 2013

While many families prepare for guests and holiday meals, one Anderson family is reflecting on their Christmas miracles this year, including a gift from another local family. Three-year-old Madilyn Jordan has fought all odds to survive after she was diagnosed with liver cancer at age 1, spending much of her life in hospitals. "They pretty much in Greenville said that she had all the chemo she could have and that was pretty much it," Christ Jordan, Madilyn's father said. "They said she would live about two months. But we didn't give up on her." "You never expect to hear those words - cancer," Madilyn's mom Kristy Jordan told FOX Carolina. "And when they told us that, they said that she had a 50-50 chance." Recently, Madilyn's parents' prayers were answered when she traveled to Cincinnati for a liver transplant. They knew it would be a thankful but simple Christmas after most of their time, energy and resources had gone to Madilyn's recovery. Madilyn's story was passed along to Shannon Williams, who chose to adopt the Jordan family through the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program. "I don't know what God has planned for her, but he has an amazing little girl here on earth," Kristy Jordan said. "And he's got big plans for her. And I'm going to do everything I can in my power to make sure she does what God intends for her to do." The Jordan family said they were so thankful to Shannon Williams and everyone who has supported and prayed for them. They said Madilyn's progress and recovery looks better than they could have imagined. "This is really the gift that keeps on giving," Chris Jordan said. "And we feel like we've been given a new life with her."

Jan. 17, 2013

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley says the shooting rampage at a Connecticut elementary school should prompt discussions about mental health treatment, not anti-gun laws. The Republican governor said Thursday no amount of gun control can stop someone from getting a gun. But she says boosting mental health spending can hopefully detect and treat issues before people become violent. The mother of two says the death of 20 students and six teachers in Newtown, CT., last week was absolutely heartbreaking but should not lead to emotion-based decision-making. Haley's budget proposal for 2013-14 includes an additional \$11 million for the Department of Mental Health, on top of this year's increase. She says prior budget cuts decimated the agency, and lawmakers nationwide have put off dealing with mental health issues for too long.

Jan. 21, 2013

To honor his legacy and service, volunteers spent some of their time Monday serving in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. The annual federal holiday and national day of service is held this year Jan. 21, with scheduled events planned across the Upstate and country. In Spartanburg, college students, community members and more will gather for a breakfast at 8 a.m. at the C.C. Woodson Community Center at 210 Bomar Ave. Following the breakfast, volunteers will depart to service sites across the community from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The event is organized by The University of South Carolina Upstate, Converse College, Wofford College, United Way of the Piedmont, Spartanburg School District Seven and the City of Spartanburg. Monday night in Spartanburg, the MLK Unity Celebration is from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium. In Greenville, Dreams in Action has planned a family friendly event at Greenville High School on Vardry Street from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. featuring Michelin Presents "One Voice" with JDew. Greenville Tech students, faculty and staff will meet from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Student Center to make sandwiches for sack lunches for The Salvation Army, create cards for veterans and hospitalized children, assemble hygiene kits for nursing home residents, and create a piece of artwork depicting unity that will be displayed in the Student Center. Furman University students will work from 9 a.m. to noon at Brutontown Cemetery. Students are gathering at 8 a.m. at the Burgess Theater. In Greer, a celebration luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. at the Greer City Hall Events Center. The lunch costs \$10 and guests are encouraged to bring one or more nonperishable food item to help Greer Relief. The luncheon will honor King through words, dance, song and multimedia presentations. In Clemson, students, faculty and staff will volunteer from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at various service sites in the community. Volunteers will meet at the Hendrix Student Center for breakfast before dispersing. In Columbia, King Day at the Dome is held from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the South Carolina State House.

Jan. 22, 2013

Some may remember Larry Swilling of Starr's story - he's walked all over the Upstate and even around Charlotte with a simple message: "Need a Kidney 4 Wife." FOX Carolina spoke to him back in September when he first began his search for a kidney for his wife, who was born with just one kidney that is now failing. Now nearly five months later, there's no good news yet. In fact, Swilling's wife is now on kidney dialysis, still awaiting a good match. Swilling said at least 600 people have called, hoping to be able to help his wife Jimmie Sue. But so far, no one has been cleared as a perfect match. Jimmie Sue's blood type is O positive, making her search more difficult. While O positive is the most common blood type, those with it can only receive donations from others with type O blood, according to the American Red Cross. "We're ready," said Swilling. "Just waiting for that one phone call. I hope it comes soon." The Swillings just celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary in December. Swilling said it's been a storybook romance since he first laid his eyes on his wife all those years ago. "I guess she was the old saying, 'love at first sight,' I didn't know what love was then but I do now," said Swilling. He said in all this time,

they've only been apart for a week at the longest. Now as the threat of losing his one true love gets closer, Swilling is heartbroken. "We've been close together ever since we've been married," he said. "We stuck by each other, she's looked after me and now it's my turn to look after her, but I can't." He said his wife has started having complications with kidney dialysis. He's not sure now much more of it she can take. "She's never been a complainer," he said. "She's real tough. She's got this problem and she's lived with it. But now she's saying it's tough." He said he's gotten calls from Sweden, Hawaii and even South Africa; however, there's been no donor match yet. He said nothing will stop him from getting his wife what she needs. "I'm gonna do all I can," he said. "Whatever I can do to get her a kidney because I still think we've got some more years left together and naturally I want to have her as long as I can." If you have an O positive blood type and think you might be able to help, Swilling wants you to call him at 864-314-0212.


Jan. 23, 2013

Many current and former students along with faculty and staff are mourning the loss of an Easley High School teacher Wednesday. Dr. William "Mike" Carmical III, 61, taught science at Easley High since 1997, having taught for the School District of Pickens County since he started at Getty Middle School in 1996. This year, Carmical taught physics and physical science. A school district spokesman said Carmical died unexpectedly Tuesday night. "We are shocked and saddened by this sudden loss," said Easley High School principal Tim Mullis. "Dr. Carmical always had a smiling face and was ready to help out anyway he could." "This is a tough loss for our school and the local community," Mullis continued. "Mike was very active in his church and Lions Club of Pickens. He will be missed by all." District superintendent Dr. Kelly Pew said their thoughts and prayers are with Carmical's family. Counselors were on hand at school Wednesday for students and staff. Funeral arrangements have not yet been released. Flags were flown at half-staff outside of Easley High on Wednesday and many had left words condolences and memories of Carmical on his classroom door. Funeral services for Carmical will be Saturday at 1 p.m. at Pickens Presbyterian Church with a burial to follow in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends Friday from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at Dillard Funeral Home on Gentry Memorial Highway in Pickens.

Jan. 28, 2013

Health officials say flu season is early this year -- and Carolinians are feeling the pain. It's already one of the worst flu seasons in a decade, and it's only going to get worse. The flu season usually hits in January and February. But 14 people already have died in North Carolina, while 13 people have died in South Carolina. Doctors' offices and emergency rooms in the Carolinas are filled with people suffering from flu-like symptoms, including muscles aches and high fever. North Carolina Health Department epidemiologist Dr. Megan Davies says this particular strain -- H3N2 -- is typically harder on older Americans than other ones. Other states are in the middle of outbreaks, including Alaska, New York and Mississippi.

Feb. 5, 2013

After spending two days atop a tall Travelers Rest tree, a kitten was rescued by teamwork from the local power  company and firefighters. The 1-year-old feline named Smoky managed to climb the tree Sunday, but could not muster the courage to descend the trunk. Elaine Gosnell, Smoky's owner, said she placed food at the base of tree

to entice the kitty to come down, but other animals ate the food. She said her concern for her cat increased when she noticed a hawk circling the tree. After trying to get local animal control crews and firefighters to rescue the kitty, the local utility company, Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative, came to the rescue. The power crew used a cherry-picker and a pole to nudge Smoky out of the tree, while some firefighters held a blanket beneath him. Eventually, Smoky fell about 70 feet and into the waiting blanket to the tune of his nervous owner shouting, "Catch him!" "He's good," Gosnell said as she stroked the nervous cat after his fall. "He's just skinny. He's real skinny. He's lost weight, you can tell." Gosnell said she thanks the power crew and firefighters for rescuing her stranded feline.

Feb. 13, 2013

South Carolina health officials warn that January marks the rise of the stomach ailment known as norovirus. Symptoms include diarrhea, vomiting, nausea and stomach cramping. Department of Health and Environmental Control spokesman Jim Beasley says that while the ailment is sometimes known as the stomach flu, it has nothing to do with influenza. Beasley says the norovirus is a gastrointestinal ailment, while the flu is a respiratory virus. DHEC officials say the norovirus is spread by eating foods or drinking liquids that are contaminated, touching contaminated surfaces, or having direct contact with an afflicted person. Since there is no vaccine, officials warn people to wash their hands after using the bathroom or changing diapers and before they prepare food.

Feb. 19, 2013

Some may remember Larry Swilling of Starr's story - he's walked all over the Upstate and even around Charlotte with a simple message: "Need a kidney 4 Wife." FOX Carolina spoke to him back in September when he first began his search for a kidney for his wife, who was born with just one kidney that is now failing. Now nearly five months later, there's no good news yet. In fact, Swilling's wife is now on kidney dialysis, still awaiting a good match. Swilling said at least 600 people have called, hoping to be able to help his wife Jimmie Sue. But so far, no one has been cleared as a perfect match. Jimmie Sue's blood type is O positive, making her search more difficult. While O positive is the most common blood type, those with it can only receive donations from others with type O blood, according to the American Red Cross. "We're ready," said Swilling. "Just waiting for that one phone call. I hope it comes soon." The Swillings just celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary in December. Swilling said it's been a storybook romance since he first laid his eyes on his wife all those years ago. "I guess she was the old saying, 'love at first sight,' I didn't know what love was then but I do now," said Swilling. He said in all this time, they've only been apart for a week at the longest. Now as the threat of losing his one true love gets closer, Swilling is heartbroken. "We've been close together ever since we've been married," he said. "We stuck by each other, she's looked after me and now it's my turn to look after her, but I can't." He said his wife has started having complications with kidney dialysis. He's not sure now much more of it she can take. "She's never been a complainer," he said. "She's real tough. She's got this problem and she's lived with it. But now she's saying it's tough." He said he's gotten calls from Sweden, Hawaii and even South Africa; however, there's been no donor match yet. He said nothing will stop him from getting his wife what she needs. "I'm gonna do all I can," he said. "Whatever I can do to get her a kidney because I still think we've got some more years left together and naturally I want to have her as long as I can." If you have an O positive blood type and think you might be able to help, Swilling wants you to call him at 864-314-0212.

Feb. 26, 2013

According to a study by the Natural Resources Defense Council, 40 percent of food in the United States goes uneaten. That statistic comes from all the losses, from farming, through packing, processing and distribution. A question that arises is how and why Americans waste food in their homes, and how can we preserve edibles and stretch dollars. Casey Vaughn is a web producer at FOX Carolina. She and her roommate, Whitney, let FOX Carolina's Dana Wachter into their kitchen to track their food waste for a week. The roommates often experiment with new recipes - some are a hit, others make for long-time leftovers. This week, Vaughn said her leftover crock-pot beer chicken will likely hit the garbage can, just like a Tupperware of week-old green beans. "A lot of the fresh produce will be buy one get one free, or two for five dollars. So it's like, we can eat two in a week, so let's buy them! Then we end up with four in our fridge, and we only eat one bag," said Vaughn. According to the NRDC study, fresh foods often go bad before they're eaten. Reasons for this range from whether people make too much, their family doesn't like what was bought, or people impulse buy or buy in bulk. Vaughn said these things happen to her. This week, she bought a large salad from Costco. She said she had been hungry and it was lunch time, so she bought the salad, expecting to eat it through the week. At the end of the week, half of it was tossed. The study says the average American throws out 50 percent more than the average American did in the 1950's. One reason for wasted foods may be misinterpreting label dates on packaging. Dr. Susan Barefoot is a retired food microbiologist and professor, now she works with Clemson extension, and sheds light on those confusing printed numbers. The "sell-by" date is the last day food can be sold, but there is still plenty of time for it to be eaten. The "use-by" is for the best quality, but the foods shouldn't be harmful for a time after that date. The expiration date is the last date the food should be eaten. Some foods, though, may last longer than the printed dates, like eggs. Barefoot said the texture may be different than if they were fresh, but "it's not a safety issue; it is a quality issue." Barefoot said foods like lettuce can keep in the fridge for a week. "There are some bacteria that can grow in the refrigerator, so keeping it much longer than that [and it] is a safety issue, too," said Barefoot. Barefoot said she's an expert on ways to make fresh foods last. Clemson extension teaches folks how to can their own fruits and veggies, in a pressure cooker or water canner. Many of those can last for a year or more. Barefoot said freezing is the safest way to keep fresh foods longest. It just may change the texture or nutritional quality of some foods. Wrapped tightly, foods, even milk or prepared casseroles or sauces, can last far longer. That can save costs, too, said Barefoot. The NRDC study found that the average family wastes between \$1,300 and \$2,200 of food a year.

Feb. 11, 2013

A South Carolina lawmaker has again introduced a bill under which seventh-grade students could get a free vaccine to prevent a sexually transmitted, cancer-causing virus. Democratic State Rep. Bakari Sellers of Bamberg appeared Monday to speak in favor of the bill along with former first lady Jenny Sanford and doctors from the Medical University of South Carolina at the Charleston medical school on Monday. The HPV, or human papilloma is a relatively common virus, but some types can cause cervical cancer. An identical bill passed both houses of the General Assembly but was vetoed last year by Gov. Nikki Haley. She called it an unfunded mandate and said the issue needs to be discussed by parents, their children and their doctor without involving the government.

March 1, 2013

The American Heart Association is urging everyone to wear red on Feb. 1 for National Wear Red Day, which marks the first day of American Heart Month. The annual campaign, which is celebrating its 10th year on Friday, was created to bring awareness to the No. 1 killer of women - heart disease. According to the American Heart Association, heart disease continues to kill more women than all cancers combined. However, thanks to this

initiative and increased awareness, the American Heart Association says 21 percent fewer women are dying because of the disease. In addition to making a donation, a few local businesses are offering up ways to support the community and the cause. Mimi's Cafe, off Woodruff Road in Greenville, is offering a free cup of their signature soup to any customer wearing the color red all day Friday. Going forward, every Tuesday throughout the month of February, as a show of appreciation, the restaurant is also offering a complimentary cup of Mimi's hot and savory soup with a donation of \$1 or \$5. A \$5 donation also comes with a limited-edition sparkle red dress lapel pin, with 100 percent of all donations going directly to the American Heart Association. Mimi's general manager, Mike Lamb, says it's important for local businesses to get involved in such an important cause. "Not only are we thrilled to help bring awareness to this serious cause, but are thrilled to be able to provide our community with a way to participate locally." He said Mimi's restaurants throughout the country are attempting to raise \$200,000 by the end of February. National department store Macy's, which has been a sponsor of National Wear Red Day since it began, will also be hosting a special Go Red sale. The sale offers 10 to 20 percent off on select merchandise now through Feb. 3, with all proceeds benefiting the American Heart Association.

March 6, 2013

A fire at a Greenville County apartment complex damaged several units Wednesday night. The fire happened just after 8:30 p.m. at the Crescent Landing Apartments at 1008 White Horse Rd. Brian Scoles, spokesman for the American Red Cross, said it appears eight units were affected by the blaze. He said a few of those units are a total loss. In an effort to help the families, Scoles said the American Red Cross has placed all eight families in temporary housing. They are also being provided assistance to purchase food, as well as health services assistance. No injuries were reported, but residents say it was a scary experience. According to Eboni Poellnitz the fire appeared to come from "out of nowhere." She said, "there was a huge fire and it seemed like it just spread like within seconds from one part of the roof to the other part of the roof." Firefighters had extinguished the fire by the time FOX Carolina arrived at the scene. The cause of the fire has not yet been determined.

March 7, 2013

A fire at a Greenville County apartment complex damaged several units Wednesday night. The fire happened just after 8:30 p.m. at the Crescent Landing Apartments at 1008 White Horse Rd. Brian Scoles, spokesman for the American Red Cross, said it appears eight units were affected by the blaze. He said a few of those units are a total loss. In an effort to help the families, Scoles said the American Red Cross has placed all eight families in temporary housing. They are also being provided assistance to purchase food, as well as health services assistance. No injuries were reported, but residents say it was a scary experience. According to Eboni Poellnitz the fire appeared to come from "out of nowhere." She said, "there was a huge fire and it seemed like it just spread like within seconds from one part of the roof to the other part of the roof." Firefighters had extinguished the fire by the time FOX Carolina arrived at the scene. The cause of the fire has not yet been determined.

March 13, 2013

Encouraging young children to be active and eat healthy foods are parts of a new initiative for South Carolina's daycare centers. Department of Social Services director Lillian Koller said Wednesday that she hopes the ABC Grow Healthy program will help instill good habits in children before they reach school age. The program is funded by \$200,000 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Officials say the money will be used by daycare facilities to buy small items like sporting equipment and supplies. The new effort falls under the ABC

Child Care Program. That program pays for low-income families to get care for kids through age 12 while the parents work or go to school or job training.

March 19, 2013

South Carolina's top prosecutor says the state would be safer under a proposal to share mental health information with the federal government. Attorney General Alan Wilson said Tuesday a proposed bill would require the state to share information on people who have been found by a court to have mental health problems. Wilson said it's already illegal to sell guns to people with known mental illness. But the Republican said South Carolina currently is not required to disclose that information with the federal authorities who maintain the database against which names are run for background checks. Wilson is a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association. He and state lawmakers stressed repeatedly that the bill is not placing any new impediments on people who can already legally own guns

March 26, 2013

A bill that would bar North Carolina children under age 18 from visiting tanning salons is moving closer to becoming law. The Youth Skin Cancer Prevention Act was approved Tuesday by the state House Health and Human Services committee. The bill is backed by the American Cancer Society, as well as state associations representing pediatricians, dermatologists and oncologists. The measure is criticized by the tanning industry as an attack on small businesses rooted in flawed science. American Suntanning Association scientific adviser Joseph Levy told lawmakers there was no conclusive medical evidence linking moderate tanning bed use to increased risk of skin cancer. He likened the proposed ban to outlawing water because some youths drown. Levy later conceded he had no formal training or academic degrees in either medicine or science.

*Attachments*



*Crime*

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED  
FIRST QUARTER 2013**

Problem/Need: **CRIME**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
Saturdays	8:00pm	COPS
Saturdays (airs weekly)	8:30pm	COPS
Monday – Friday	2:00pm	COPS

Description: COPS follows law enforcement officers as they answer calls and deal with the subjects and victims involved in the complaints and crimes. (30:00)

Saturdays (airs weekly)	9:00pm	AMERICA'S MOST WANTED (special broadcast dates)
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Description: AMERICA'S MOST WANTED is hosted by John Walsh. The show profiles fugitives and wanted criminals who are being sought by federal, state, or local authorities. The program gives viewers a phone number to call to provide information. (60:00)

Monday – Sunday	10:00 pm	FOX CAROLINA'S MOST WANTED
Monday – Friday	5:00a-9:00am	

Description: The FOX Carolina's Most Wanted airs during the Ten O'clock News on various nights Monday thru Sunday and The Morning News Monday thru Friday. Each segment profiles locally wanted criminals and gives viewers a phone number to call to provide information. Each segment is 45 seconds.

**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS AIRED:**

- Texting & Driving

Jan. 14, 2013

Both the Greenville Police Department and the Greenville County Sheriff's Office are investigating a fatal officer-involved shooting in the back parking lot of the law enforcement center early Monday morning, according to officials. Greenville County Sheriff's Office spokesperson Jonathan Smith said a Greenville police officer was approached by a man who appeared to be armed with a weapon and felt threatened, calling over a deputy who was working on paperwork in his patrol vehicle outside of the Greenville County Law Enforcement Center about 3 a.m. When the deputy and officer ordered the man to drop the weapon, he refused and continued to approach them, prompting the officers to fire shots, Smith said. Smith said they hit the man at least once, knocking him to the ground but he got back up and continued to approach the officers in a threatening manner. Smith said they

took cover behind a car and fired more shots, eventually hitting and killing the man. Smith did not say whether the police officer or deputy fired the fatal shot. The police officers is on administrative leave and the deputy is on administrative duty pending the outcome of both departments' internal investigations, which is standard protocol. Officials have not said how the man got into the parking lot. They did say they have surveillance video of the area, which will be reviewed. State Law Enforcement Division agents were also brought in from Columbia to investigate. The Greenville County Deputy Coroner Jeff Fowler identified the man as Wesley Kyle Swilling, 31, of Mauldin. He said Swilling was shot multiple times, including taking a bullet to the chest. The deputy and officer involved were not injured, Smith said. Drivers headed into downtown Greenville on north Interstate 385 should expect some delays as officers had some lanes blocked as part of their investigation area.

Jan. 16, 2013

An Upstate man was sentenced to nearly 50 years in prison after he pleaded guilty to killing his pregnant girlfriend and their unborn child in 2011. Police said Kacy Roberson was strangled inside her Anderson apartment two years ago and Keith Rucker was charged with the crime. Rucker appeared in court on Wednesday as part of a plea deal. Roberson, who was 16 weeks pregnant, was found by her stepfather dead in her apartment on Jan. 18, 2011 covered in blood, investigators said. Prior to the hearing, Roberson's family spoke with FOX Carolina because they were not happy about Rucker's proposed sentence. Friday marks the two-year anniversary of Roberson and her unborn daughter's deaths. Debbie Hyde is now raising her two grandchildren left behind by her daughter. "She was bouncy and tough. Out of the five kids I have [Kacy] was the toughest, and no matter how bad you felt she could make you smile," Hyde said. "I have focused more on the kids and left the court and bad stuff till it came time for it." The time has come and Hyde said at a meeting with the 10th Circuit Solicitor's Office on Monday, she was told Rucker was offered a plea bargain for one count of murder and one count of killing a child in utero. "I was told yesterday he was offered 25 for one, 15 for the other - a total of 40 years," Hyde said. Hyde said she's upset with the deal, saying Rucker deserves much more for what he's accused of doing. "My daughter's gone and won't ever come back. You can't explain to her kids what happened and they still, after two years talk about her, and ask where she is," Hyde said. Hyde said she planned to let the judge know that she is not on board with the offered deal and would ask for a stiffer sentence during Wednesday's scheduled hearing. She said one of the reasons she was fighting so hard is for the little girl she takes care of, who doesn't know the pain her mother went through in death or the love she had for her in life. "I'm trying my best to hold it back so I don't become a hateful and bitter person - so I don't raise these kids that way," Hyde said. "They don't deserve that. But somewhere you've got to stand up sometime." The judge sentenced Rucker to 30 years for voluntary manslaughter and 17 years for death of a child in utero, to be served consecutively. The judge deviated from the recommended plea deal sentencing of 25 and 15 after Hyde's powerful statement in court on Wednesday, according to FOX Carolina crews at the hearing. "Today's sentence will send Mr. Rucker to prison for the next 47 years while saving the victim's family the stress and hardship of a trial," said Solicitor Chrissy Adams. "I hope each day he is behind bars will serve as a continual reminder to him of his actions and of the two innocent lives that he took."

Jan. 19, 2013

Deputies said a 19-year-old man was shot in the face early Saturday morning outside of a Spartanburg club. Spartanburg County deputies responded to Club Maze on Howard Street about 3 a.m. where they found the victim was shot close to his eye and the shooter fled the scene in a white Ford Escort. A "Be on the Lookout" alert was sent out for the shooter's car and deputies said with the help of police, they were able to locate it and pull it over a short time later. When the car was stopped, deputies said the driver said his passenger did it.

Deputies arrested 19-year-old Joshua Chapman, of Greenville, and charged him with attempted murder and possession of a weapon during a violent crime. Investigators said they recovered a handgun that was used by Chapman to shoot the victim. The victim is being treated for a non-life threatening gunshot wound at a local hospital. Deputies said Chapman and the victim did not know each other before the shooting and they have not yet determined a motive because of witnesses' lack of cooperation during their interviews. Chapman is being held at the Spartanburg County Detention Center awaiting a bond hearing.

Jan. 21, 2013

Atlanta Public Schools has 15 crisis team members and additional counselors assigned to Price Middle School following Thursday's shooting. Area police chiefs also plan to meet at the State Capitol Friday afternoon to discuss gun violence. Telvis Douglas, 14, was shot at about 1:50 p.m. outside the school, which is located in the 1600 block of Benjamin Weldon Bickers Drive. Douglas was taken to Grady Memorial Hospital. School officials confirmed that he was shot in the back of the neck and received a soft tissue injury. Douglas' family said he was released from the hospital Thursday night. The second victim, a paraprofessional, was treated for minor injuries at the scene. Atlanta Public Schools Superintendent Erroll Davis said it was likely that she was trampled after shots were fired. Stephen Alford, a spokesman for Atlanta Public Schools, confirmed that the suspect in the shooting was another Price Middle School student. Police said it appears the shooting was over a previous disagreement between the two boys. During a news conference that was held early Thursday evening, Davis said that a school resource officer, who Atlanta police Chief George Turner confirmed to be an off-duty armed Atlanta police officer, was able to get the gun away from the suspect shortly after they fired multiple shots. He said the school went into what's called a "hard lockdown" where no one is allowed to enter or leave the building. The parents were notified by robo-call. Davis admitted some parents might not have had information as quickly as they would have liked, but it was about the safety of the students. A crowd of parents gathered at the end of the street from the school and voiced frustration about not knowing more about what happened. They grew especially frustrated when they were told their children would be released at dismissal time, and did not leave the school for another hour. The school district said the students were receiving counseling and officers were making sure everyone was safe. When asked during the news conference about how the suspect was able to get the gun on campus, Davis said that the school did have metal detectors, and police were investigating. No other students at the school were injured in the shooting. The suspect's name was not released because of his age.

Jan. 22, 2013

Deputies said an unknown man who passed a bad check at a Boiling Springs Walmart may have done the same thing in another Upstate county. Spartanburg County deputies said Dec. 24, the unidentified man seen on surveillance cashed a counterfeit check worth \$731.37 at the Walmart on Highway 9 in Boiling Springs. Deputies said the victim lives in North Carolina and the check cashed in Boiling Springs had her checking account info but was counterfeit. The victim's son reported the fraud to deputies in January when they saw the money went through her account as an electronic debit, according to the deputy's report. The victim also filed a report with the Laurens County Sheriff's Office when another check was cashed in there area. If anyone has any information about who the man is or about either of these two cases, they are asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-888-CRIME-SC.

Jan. 23, 2013

The case of a Spartanburg man who was shot to death in 2005 remains unsolved and police hope someone will come forward with new information to help their investigation. Spartanburg Public Safety Department said on Wednesday that up to \$5,000 cash is available to someone who can share information that would lead to an arrest in connection with Azon Hollis' death. Police said Hollis was shot while sitting in the driver's seat of a blue 1994 Mercury Grand Marquis in front of 240 Appian Dr. on Oct. 22, 2005 about 9:30 p.m. Anyone with information about the case is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-888-274-6372 or investigators at 864-596-2065.

Jan. 24, 2013

Deputies were investigating a fatal shooting after a wounded man was found on an Anderson woman's porch Thursday night. Anderson County deputies said a woman called 911 after she heard gunshots near her Lewis Street home, and then walked outside to find the injured man. Deputies said the man was taken to a local hospital for treatment where he later died. Anderson County coroner said the man was 41-year-old Brian Anthony Wardlaw, of Anderson. He said Wardlaw died from multiple gunshot wounds about 9:15 p.m. Deputies ask that anyone with information about the shooting to call them at 864-260-4400 or Crime Stoppers at 1-888-CRIME-SC.

Jan. 27, 2013

Spartanburg County deputies said a man stabbed his nephew on Sunday after an argument with his girlfriend. Deputies said Clifford Lee's nephew called 911 at about 9 a.m. during the argument at a home on Harmony Drive in Spartanburg. Deputies said the call to authorities prompted Lee to stab his nephew in the arm with a knife. The victim was taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. Lee has been charged with first-degree assault and battery.

Jan. 28, 2013

An Etowah man was arrested Sunday night after deputies said he killed his father but claimed he died from a heart attack. Henderson County deputies said they were called to 24 Sagebrush Circle after 44-year-old Michael Walker called 911 and claimed his father, 71-year-old Gerald "Jerry" Walker, of Lilburn, GA, had suffered a heart attack. During that 911 conversation, Michael Walker told the dispatcher he and his father had gotten into a fist fight right before he had fallen to the ground of a heart attack. "He attacked me, he's all bruised up he hit me," Michael Walker said in that 911 call. He told the dispatcher he had physically defended himself in that fight. Investigators said that when they arrived at the scene about 10 minutes later, Michael Walker said his father had suffered the heart attack during a fight between the pair. However, investigators said, there were inconsistencies in Michael Walker's story, accompanied with a strong smell of bleach in the home. They said it also appeared Gerald Walker had been dead for much longer than 10 minutes. "When the call comes in as a heart attack and we get there and there's a significant odor of bleach with fans circulating in the house, it appeared the scene had been sanitized and cleaned for some reason," said Capt. Frank Stout with the Henderson Sheriffs Office. "Therefore, our investigation turned to homicide." Investigators have spoken with some family members but are still seeking a motive. "We're conducting interviews with family members in Georgia, but at this time we've have not had anything substantial brought forth," said Stout. Michael Walker was charged with first-degree murder. He was being held in the county jail without bond. An autopsy is scheduled for Gerald Walker.

Jan. 29, 2013

A Chesnee mother of five was arrested on Tuesday, charged with five counts of child neglect, after deputies said the family was living in a condemned home filled with flies, trash and feces. Spartanburg County deputies said they were driving by 30-year-old Amy Henderson's Jones Road home headed to another investigation when they saw a young boy outside without clothes on carrying a hammer. The deputy stopped and knocked on the front door, which Henderson eventually answered, according to a sheriff's office report. Upon entering the home, deputies said there were thousands of flies inside and piles of rotting trash throughout the home. Deputies said in one bathroom, the floors had caved in, making the tub unreachable, and in another bathroom, one bathtub was full of cat feces. They said there was also a hole in the wall where feces was dumped through. Three children ages 4, 2 and four months were home with Henderson, covered in lice, bruises and scratches, according to investigators. They said the other two children, ages 10 and 9 were at school. Henderson told deputies they had lived at the home for two years. The children were placed in emergency protective custody. The report stated that building code officials were called in, where they condemned the home.

Jan. 29, 2013

Deputies said they are hoping someone has information on an armed robbery when a man pulled a box cutter on K-mart employee on Monday. Greenville County deputies said the K-mart loss prevention officer at the store located off of U.S. 29 and Interstate 185 spotted a man trying to hide a 20 packs of socks. When the employee approached the shoplifter, deputies said he pulled out a box cutter and fled the scene. The robber was described as a black male, 50 to 60 years old, 5'4" to 5'7" tall and clean shaven. Anyone with information is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 864-23-CRIME.

Jan. 29, 2013

Greenwood County deputies said they discovered someone was trafficking marijuana after a weekly shipment seemed out of place to workers at a local pack-n-ship store. Employees at the Ship it Center on Bypass 72 Northwest said a local man came in during the past few weeks to receive packages from California, and Friday they searched the most recent shipment to find 22 pounds of plastic wrap smelling of Pine Sol, according to a deputy's report. Deputies said the package was sent through the United States Postal Service from Burbank, CA, to a Greenwood address. Investigators secured a search warrant where they found marijuana inside the box. Deputies waited at the store for the man to come pick up the box and once he had, they stopped him and arrested him. They charged Larry Curry, 30, with trafficking marijuana. According to a *GWDToday.com* report, Burbank police declined to comment on the incident, citing an ongoing investigation into the matter. Now, while going through your mail is illegal, Upstate attorney and former Solicitor W. Townes Jones says in this case, the shipping store could be in the clear. "The authorities have not breached your rights of privacy when they're called in by a private citizen to look into what they think might be criminal activity," says Jones.

Jan. 30, 2013

The Midland City child hostage standoff, stretching into its seventh day Monday, shows no visible change at the scene off of U.S. 231 in Dale County. Local and national media outlets remain on scene awaiting any movement from authorities regarding a man and a 5-year-old hostage who remain tucked out of sight in an underground bunker. Though the suspect, Jimmy Lee Dykes, is accused of gunning down the child's bus driver a week ago,

authorities praised him over the weekend for taking care of his child hostage. Authorities say Dykes has provided the child with things sent into the bunker by authorities including a red HotWheels car and Cheez-Its crackers. Dykes told authorities the bunker is outfitted with an electric heater and numerous blankets which allowed the pair to keep warm as temperatures plunged overnight this weekend. Authorities on the scene say Dykes continues to have an open line of communication with negotiators, though there's been no official word given on demands Dykes may have. The small southeastern Alabama town of Midland City, about 2.5 hours from the state capital of Montgomery, has been flooded by numerous law enforcement agencies, as well as crews connected to media outlets around the world. News conferences to update the status of the situation have been few, brief, and thin on details with Dale County Sheriff Wally Olson leading the briefs. Most last less than two minutes and end with reiterations that negotiations, taking place via a PVC pipe connected to the buried bunker, are ongoing. Olson has thanked the media for patience and promised to release information as fast as possible. He also warned that unless information came from him at the podium he uses, the information is rumor and he won't speculate on it. Authorities are keeping any information they may have close to the vest in an effort not to damage their operation. But citizens of Midland City, where approximately 2,300 people call home, are growing anxious. The situation hasn't changed in nearly 80 hours. Friday, police departments in Montgomery and Prattville offered to assist with any help authorities in Dale County may need. Officers with MPD are now being utilized for perimeter support. Prattville officers are on standby, according to Chief Mark Thompson said his department is ready to help in any way. "It's just real trying on them," Chief Thompson said of local law enforcement whom he says may know the child and his family and not be able to rescue him as fast as they would like.

Jan. 31, 2013

Colleton County Sheriff's deputies say a Walterboro man chased down two teenagers he thought were trying to steal from his truck and locked the two in his car trunk. Authorities say 35-year-old Tommy Mixon has cameras installed near his home because of earlier thefts. An incident report states the alarm went off early Wednesday and Mixon saw two teens standing by his truck. When the two ran, Mixon jumped into his car and started after them. Deputies say when he found them, he pulled out his .357 revolver and made them get into the car's trunk. Mixon then drove them back to his house and called authorities. The teenagers have been charged with trespassing. No charges have been filed against Mixon. Deputies are continuing their investigation.

Feb. 1, 2013

The passenger riding with a woman accused of hitting a 10-year-old Cherokee County girl with her car then fleeing the scene has been arrested. The Highway Patrol charged Tracy Cobb with failure to render aid Friday. Troopers said Cobb was riding in the car with his sister, Nikki Waters, 40, who was driving when she hit the girl along Hopewell Road Jan. 21. Troopers said the girl was riding a scooter in the southbound lane of Hopewell Road when a car hit her and left the scene. The child was flown to Spartanburg Regional Medical Center for treatment, troopers said. Cobb was arrested Friday and is awaiting a bond hearing. His sister was arrested the day after the crash and charged with hit-and-run with great bodily injury, driving under suspension and failure to render aid. She was being held at the Cherokee County Detention Center on \$75,000 bond.

Feb. 14, 2013

A Gaffney man was arrested after investigators said he tried to kill his deaf parents in a house fire Monday morning after stealing from them. Cherokee County Sheriff Steve Mueller said 22-year-old Fletcher Blanton removed a lighted fire alarm system in the home before setting the Ford Road house ablaze. Deputies said Blanton reported the fire after he awoke to smoke inside the home, then woke up his parents, who were able to get out of the home safely. Following their investigation, deputies said Blanton intentionally caused a fire that damaged the home and also stole \$4,850 of tools and electronics from his dad the same day as the fire. Blanton was charged with third-degree arson, grand larceny and two counts of attempted murder. Mueller said Blanton's need to buy drugs may have been a motive for the crime.

Feb. 18, 2013

Former Clemson defensive end Da'Quan Bowers was arrested at LaGuardia Airport in New York City on Monday morning. A spokesperson for the Queens District Attorney said the .40-caliber gun and ammunition were found in Bowers' luggage at a check-in counter. [WYNW-TV](#) reported that Bowers was supposed to board a U.S. Airways flight to Raleigh, NC, when he was arrested. Bowers was charged with two counts of second-degree criminal possession of a weapon. He was arraigned on the charge Monday night and later released on \$10,000 bond. Bowers is the most decorated player in Clemson history. In 2010, he won the Nagurski Award as the top defensive player and the Hendricks Award as the top defensive end. He was also a finalist for both the Lombardi and Bednarik awards. Bowers was also named an All-American and the Atlantic Coast Conference defensive player of the year. For the past two years, Bowers has played in the NFL as a defensive end for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Feb. 19, 2013

A Seneca woman charged last week in connection with a rash of bomb threats in Oconee County was also charged Tuesday in connection with bomb threats at Clemson University. On Friday, Oconee County deputies said 38-year-old Melissa Griggs was arrested on an outstanding warrant issued for a trespassing charge at the Walmart store in Seneca. She was then charged with eight counts of making a bomb threat in connection with calls to 911 between Feb. 10 and 11 where threats were conveyed. On Tuesday, Clemson University police said Griggs was also charged with two counts of making a bomb threat in connection with threats made to the Hendrix Student Center on Jan. 30 and Feb. 4. Griggs was being held in the Oconee County jail on bond.

Feb. 20, 2013

A Spartanburg duo was arrested after deputies said they crashed a stolen car then set it on fire in Union County. They are also accused in a two-county crime spree. Union County deputies said they discovered 32-year-old Thomas Campbell and 24-year-old Anna Sanders had possession of a stolen car from Spartanburg Tuesday morning after receiving a 911 call about a fiery wrecked vehicle along Pulpwood Yard Road. When deputies questioned the two, Campbell and Sanders told them they were passengers in the car and the driver had run off into the woods, but after canine officers searched the area, they admitted to making up the information about the driver to avoid trouble, deputies said. Deputies said when they searched both suspects, Campbell had three

guns on him and Sanders had an empty gun holster. Investigators said a television and other items were sitting on the ground around the car, which they thought seemed out of place. One of Campbell's guns turned out to be stolen along with the car, deputies said. They said the television was also reported stolen from a burglary at a home on Lemonade Road in Pacolet Tuesday morning. Deputies said they also connected the two to a burglary at home on Jeffries Farm Road in Jonesville. Deputies said they recovered all the stolen items. In addition to the stolen items, deputies said they found plastic containers at the scene used by both suspects to make methamphetamine. Deputies said their investigation also revealed that Campbell and Sanders set the car on fire following the crash, intending to destroy it. Both were arrested and charged with two counts of first-degree burglary and petit larceny, third-degree arson and manufacturing methamphetamine. They remain in jail on no bond. After being booked into the Union County Jail, deputies said Sanders became angry and attacked a female jailer. Deputies said Sanders hit the jailer in the face, scratching her, tried to choke her and spit in her face several times. Sanders was also charged with third-degree assault and battery and throwing of bodily fluids by a prisoner. Union County deputies said they were working with Spartanburg County deputies as the two may be linked to crimes in their area. According to a Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office report, the car the duo wrecked in Union was reported stolen from a home on Mimosa Lake Road Tuesday morning. Spartanburg County deputies were called to the home when the homeowner told them he tried to back out of his driveway but an unknown Jeep had blocked him in. The homeowner told deputies that he also realized his wife's car was missing, which had a gun inside the glove box. About the same time, the Jeep's owner received a call about its discovery and showed up at the Mimosa Lake Road home, deputies said. Investigators said the Jeep's owner reported it missing from his Whitestone Road home sometime after 11 p.m. Monday. They said his home was about a mile away. Deputies said whoever had taken the Jeep had attempted to remove the radio, damaged the A/C vent and the gauges were working totaling about \$300 in damage. Spartanburg County deputies said they had not yet filed warrants in connection with their cases.

Feb. 22, 2013

Deputies said they have arrested a Greenville man after they said he made two fake 911 calls this week and connected him to a total of 38 false calls since 2010. Greenville County deputies said Ralph Lawson, 43, called 911 on Feb. 19 to report his wife was unconscious at their Sandra Avenue home, but when paramedics and deputies responded, they found there was no medical emergency. While they were investigating the call, deputies said they received another call from Lawson about a church fire in Anderson County where people were trapped inside. They said that call was also unfounded. As investigators looked into the calls, they said Lawson made 21 fake calls since Nov. 24, some of which required paramedics, firefighters and deputies to respond. Deputies said he made a total of 38 calls since July 2010. Lawson was arrested Thursday and charged with unlawful use of 911. He was later released from jail on \$3,000 bond. Deputies said he faces up to six months in jail and up to a \$200 fine if convicted.

Feb. 25, 2013

Police said a Sears loss prevention officer trying to stop two men from shoplifting was trapped inside the car door jam and dragged for several feet before the men got away on Saturday. Spartanburg police said the two men were seen taking several tool kits from the hardware section of the Westgate Mall Sears department store just before 2 p.m. Police said the worker tried to stop the men in the parking lot after they walked out of the store

without paying. One man jumped in the driver seat and the other got in on the passenger side without shutting the door, and as the car began to back up, the worker was trapped in the door jam, according to police. The worker was dragged about 20 feet before he was able to jump off, police said. Investigators said before fleeing, the men dropped the tool kits, which were recovered. Police said the car had a stolen tag out of Greenville on it and another car was damaged by the open door as they fled. Police have not yet identified the shoplifters. The worker was not injured, police said. Anyone with information is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-888-CRIME-SC.

Feb. 26, 2013

Admitted Chardon shooter TJ Lane changed his plea to guilty during a hearing Tuesday morning. Lane entered a guilty plea to all six counts - three counts of aggravated murder, two counts of attempted murder and one count of felonious assault all with firearms specifications. Lane had previously pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity. Prosecutors say on Feb. 27, 2012, Lane entered the cafeteria at Chardon High School and opened fire. 17-year-old Russell King, Jr., 16-year-old Daniel Parmertor and 16-year-old Demetrius Hewlin were killed in the shooting. 17-year-old Nick Walczak remains paralyzed from the waist down. 18-year-old Joy Rickers and a 6th, unidentified victim were treated and released from the hospital. Lane was recorded in a police cruiser after he was picked up and read his rights saying, "I shot people." An officer asked why and he responded "I don't know." Lane cannot be sentenced to death. He was under the age of 18 at the time of the deadly shooting, and turned 18 on Sept 19 of last year. He will be sentenced on March 19 at 9 a.m.

Feb. 27, 2013

Two men have been arrested and a third man is wanted in connection with a shooting outside a Spartanburg restaurant Monday afternoon. The shooting happened at 2:13 p.m. in the parking lot of the Taco Bell restaurant at the intersection of Warren H. Abernathy Highway and Franklin Avenue. Lt. Tony Ivey, of the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office, said someone inside the restaurant called for help after the shooting. He said arriving deputies found a man in a silver car in the parking lot, suffering from a gunshot wound. On Tuesday night, deputies said they arrested 19-year-old Tevin Thomas. On Tuesday afternoon, deputies said they arrested 27-year-old Reginald Sanders and issued warrants for the arrest of 24-year-old Robert Moore. Ivey said eyewitnesses and evidence at the scene helped develop the three men as suspects in the case. He said it appears a dispute over drugs may have been the motive for the shooting. According to arrest warrants, Thomas and Moore were responsible for the shooting, while Sanders tried to help Thomas avoid the consequences of the crime. Thomas was being held in the county jail without bond. Sanders was scheduled to have a bond hearing as early as Wednesday night. Anyone with information regarding Moore's whereabouts was asked to call Crime Stoppers at 888-CRIME-SC (888-274-6372). Ivey said Moore is considered to be armed and dangerous. Thomas was also charged with receiving stolen goods after he sold a stolen laptop to a pawn shop, Ivey said. He said Thomas was also arrested two weeks ago in connection with a few burglaries in Spartanburg.

Feb. 28, 2013

Two Hendersonville sisters were arrested after deputies said they failed to provide adequate food and water to their horses. Capt. Frank Stout, of the Henderson County Sheriff's Office, said Laci Haynes, 24, and Sarah Bumgarner, 35, were warned about the treatment of their horses on Feb. 14. Stout said that Monday, deputies seized the pair's six horses after receiving another complaint about the condition of the animals. He said one of the horses had to be euthanized after being placed in rehabilitation care. Haynes and Bumgarner were released from jail on a promise to appear in court on March 28.

Feb. 28, 2013

Deputies said a former middle school teacher in Greenville County had sex with two 15-year-old students in 2008. Greenville County deputies said Robert Powell, 30, turned himself in to deputies on Wednesday on charges of two counts of criminal sexual conduct with a minor and two counts of committing a lewd act upon a child under 16. Master Deputy Laura Campbell said Powell was a teacher at Northwest Middle School and 26 years old at the time of the incidents. She said deputies were not notified of the incidents until Jan. 22, 2013, though the lewd acts happened on school grounds and outside their home between August and December of 2008, according to the arrest warrants. Greenville County Schools Director of Communications Oby Lyles said Powell was put on leave on Mon. Feb. 11 when the sheriff's office notified them of their investigation and he resigned from his current position as part-time band director at Ralph Chandler Middle School on Wednesday. At the time of the sexual misconduct allegations, Lyles said Powell was band director at Northwest while the victims were high school students. Lyles said Powell served as band director at Northwest from August 2005 until June 2011 along with assisting the Travelers Rest High School Band until he left the district for a position in another school district. He said Powell returned to the district working at Ralph Chandler in August 2012. Powell was given a \$10,000 bond and released from jail late Wednesday night.

March 4, 2013

A Tennessee man was arrested Monday morning after a crime spree in Asheville, police said. Asheville Police Sgt. Mike Lamb said officers were called to the St. Lawrence Basilica about 7:30 a.m. after someone said a short man with brown hair wearing tan coveralls robbed him and then fled. Lamb said that about 15 minutes later they received a second call from Elizabeth Place, less than a mile from the basilica, saying that a similarly described man assaulted a woman and then stole her car. Less than an hour after the second call, Lamb said officers received a third call from a home on Country Club Road. He said the caller reported a man, matching the description from the first two calls, used a hammer to smash a window and break into the home. The homeowner said the man then grabbed a knife and attacked his son, who was not injured, Lamb said. Lamb said about 15 minutes after the third call, officers were called to a burglary call on Manetta Road. He said the description of the burglar once again matched the description from the first three calls. He said the man demanded car keys after breaking in to the home, and the fled on foot. William Lynn, of Nashville, TN, was arrested in connection with the spree. He was charged with attempted common law robbery, common law robbery, assault by strangulation, assault inflicting serious injury, two counts of assault with a deadly weapon, larceny after breaking and entering, two counts of breaking and entering, larceny and second-degree kidnapping. Lynn was being held in the Buncombe County jail on \$100,000 bond.

March 5, 2013

A Gaffney woman said she was in a bind and needed some quick cash when she decided to go door-to-door selling pornographic videotapes. Jeanette Ellis, 52, said she found a box of dirty movies on her street, and watched a few of them before she hit the streets. "I said, 'I'll sell them to somebody who might want them,'" Ellis told FOX Carolina's Greg Funderburg. "I was going to get like \$5 for them. There [were] like 15 tapes." Ellis said her money-making effort was quashed when she knocked on the door of one home, where someone had called the police. "I waited outside, and the police showed up," Ellis said. Ellis was charged with not having a permit to solicit sales.

March 5, 2013

A Pacolet man was arrested Sunday after police said he attacked a woman after she ate the last piece of chicken during dinner. According to an incident report from the Pacolet Police Department, 44-year-old Clifford Smith and other people sat down for dinner on Sunday night, when a wheelchair-bound woman ate the last piece of chicken. Smith then got upset and said he wanted the last piece, according to the report. The report said that Smith then hit the woman, smashed a beer bottle on a wall and then choked her. Smith also smashed the woman's cell phone when she called 911, according to the report. Smith was charged with simple assault and vandalism.

March 6, 2013

A Woodruff man was arrested Wednesday in connection with the theft of nearly \$19,000 worth of Girl Scout Cookies last month. Spartanburg County deputies said that on Feb. 26, the cookies were reported missing from Carey Moving and Storage. Investigators said that after reviewing surveillance video and invoices, 37-year-old Christopher Morton, who worked at the business, was named as a suspect. On Sunday, Greenville County deputies found 350 cases of Girl Scout Cookies behind an abandoned business on Haywood Road, according to investigators. On Wednesday, Morton confessed to stealing 450 cases of cookies, worth \$18,900, and then disposing of the cases in Greenville, according to deputies. Morton was charged with breach of trust more than \$10,000.

March 7, 2013

Deputies hope someone can identify several people they said have used counterfeit checks in several states, including South Carolina, that potentially could send one victim of the scheme to jail. Spartanburg County deputies said the thieves are stealing mail from the victims' mailboxes, using their information to make counterfeit checks and then are cashing the checks at stores across Georgia and the Carolinas. One of the victims has even been threatened with jail time by several collection agencies who said he owes them money, according to deputies. Investigators said more than 25 different checks have been written in the victim's name. Investigators estimate at least \$20,000 in loss because of the check cashing ring. They said the checks have been passed at stores like Lowes, Toys R Us, Hobby Lobby, Bi-Lo and Tractor Supply. Along with the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office, Greer police and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service are investigating the case. Deputies said if someone's tip lead to the identification and arrest of the thieves, they may receive a substantial reward. Anyone who can identify the people seen in the surveillance photos is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-888-CRIME-SC or Sgt. Tony Brown with the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office at 864-503-4509.

March 8, 2013

Spartanburg police said they arrested two shoplifters who dragged a store employee outside of the mall after the employee tried to stop them from stealing clothes on Wednesday. Police said the loss prevention manager for the Hollister store at the Westgate Mall noticed 28-year-old Ashley Watkins and 26-year-old Kashif Hamilton using pliers to take sensors off some clothes before stuffing them in Watkins' purse and leaving the store. The pair then went to the American Eagle Outfitters store where they stole more clothes, police said. Police said the Hollister manager then approached both suspects as they left American Eagle and asked for the clothes back, prompting Watkins to grab the manager's arm and try to push her. Officers said Watkins and Hamilton then began to fight the manager, dragging her out of the mall where two women headed inside the mall saw the fight and tried to help break it up. Police said the manager was thrown to the ground, and the two threatened to punch her in the face before they went to leave, but mall security was able to detain them until officers arrived. The manager was taken to urgent care with some injuries, police said. The police reports stated nearly \$280 worth of clothes were stolen from both stores but recovered, though some were damaged from the torn-off sensors. According to online jail records, Watkins was charged with two counts of strong-arm robbery, two counts of possession of criminal tools, third-degree assault and battery and malicious injury to property. She was being held on bond. Hamilton was charged with third-degree assault and battery and two counts of shoplifting and has since been released from jail, according to online detention center records.

March 11, 2013

Deputies said a woman is in jail, accused of trying to kill another woman by stabbing her in the arm with a steak knife. Spartanburg County deputies said on Wednesday, 25-year-old Alyssa Cash and the victim were at a home together and Cash became angry and struck her several times in the arm. Deputies said the victim had two puncture wounds to her arm and wrist. Cash was arrested on Friday and charged with attempted murder.

March 12, 2013

An Upstate mother was arrested after police said her 5-year-old son had bad bruises and cuts on his neck, chest and back after a spanking. Union police said they were notified about the bruises after the Department of Social Services was contacted and were told the boy's mother had spanked him with a belt. When they spoke to 30-year-old Clarissa Thomas, police said she admitted to spanking her son with a belt, but he was moving while she hit him, so there were marks all over him. Police said they waited for the boy to come home from school and documented his injuries, which matched the belt used. Officers said they placed the boy and his younger brother with a relative. Thomas was arrested and charged with cruelty to a child and has since been released from jail.

March 12, 2013

The death of an Asheville man whose body was found in his burning home last year has been ruled a homicide, according to police. The fire happened Sept. 20, 2012 at 86 Logan Ave. Firefighters said there was heavy smoke and flames coming from the home when they arrived. They said the body of 54-year-old Michael Willingham was found inside. Lt. Dave Romick, of the Asheville Police Department, said an autopsy completed on Feb. 27 showed that Willingham suffered trauma to his face before the fire. He said an investigation also determined the fire was deliberately set. Anyone with information about the fire or Willingham's death is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 828-255-5050.

March 14, 2013

The final two suspects named in connection with a manhunt in Greenville last month were arrested in Columbia on Friday, police said. Greenville County deputies said U.S. Marshals tried to stop a vehicle with four people inside at the intersection of Augusta Street and West Tallulah Drive. They said that when the vehicle stopped, four men jumped out and fled. One of the men, 17-year-old Michael Lee, was quickly arrested. The other three men escaped. The following day, Greenville police named 17-year-old Javon Mack as one of the men. On Thursday, Public Information Officer Jonathan Bragg, of the Greenville Police Department, said officers received a tip that Mack and the third man in the car, identified as 18-year-old Marquis Blassingame, were in Columbia. He said Marshals arrested both men in Columbia just before 9 p.m. Lee, Mack and Blassingame were also named as suspects in the Feb. 16 robbery of a clothing store on Poinsett Highway. Investigators in that case said Lee, Blassingame, Mack and 26-year-old Ali Alatif held several people at gunpoint and duct taped one worker during an attempted robbery. When a family member walked into the store, the men fled before they could steal anything, deputies said. According to the warrants that prompted Marshals to stop the vehicle on Feb. 21, Mack and Lee shot at two people on Feb. 10, wounding one person. All three men face several charges in both Greenville and Greenville County.

March 15, 2013

Goose Creek police say a 12-year-old stole a SUV and led them on a chase into North Charleston on Thursday evening. According to Lieutenant Karen Nix with the Goose Creek Police Department, officers received reports of a hit-and-run in the parking lot of Walmart on St. James Avenue around 5:45 p.m. Nix said officers were traveling east on Highway 176 near Thomason Boulevard when they saw the hit-and-run suspect's SUV, a 2005 Mercury Mariner which had been reported stolen. Officers tried to pull the SUV over, but police said the juvenile behind the wheel ignored their commands and proceeded to Highway 52 and onto Interstate 26. Nix said the juvenile continued east on I-26 into North Charleston, where North Charleston Police Department officers laid down stop sticks near Remount Road. The juvenile was able to maneuver around the first set of sticks, but Nix said North Charleston police deployed another set of stop sticks just past the Montague Avenue exit. The SUV's tires blew out and the 12-year-old was taken into custody. He is charged with possessing a stolen vehicle, failure to stop for blue lights, leaving the scene of an accident involving an unattended vehicle, and driving without a license. Police took the boy to the Goose Creek Police Department before he was turned over to his guardians. He is scheduled to be taken to Columbia on Friday.

March 24, 2013

Police said an early morning shooting left a Greenwood man dead, with no suspects as of Saturday evening. They said the attack happened just after 12 a.m. Saturday near Meadow Street in Greenwood, killing 30-year-old Tremayne Turner. Friends and family of the victim told FOX Carolina they are in lot of pain, but they're also very angry. They want justice for Turner's death, but they don't believe that's what police are working to get them. Moneak Martin's Greenwood home has been tainted with broken glass and bullet casings for a month, ever since she said someone she doesn't know "shot up" her house. She feels fortunate none of the five children in the house were injured. Then early Saturday, gunshots rang out again, but this time they fatally wounded her child's father, Tremayne Turner. "When the gunshots stopped, I ran to the door and seen someone laying on the porch," Martin said. Martin said she knew Turner's wounds were serious. "I just tried to do whatever I could, hold his head up or whatever," Martin said. "He got shot and tried to run on my porch but he just collapsed here on the steps." Police said Turner was the only one in a crowd on the street that was hit by a bullet. The county coroner said Turner later succumbed to his injuries around 6 a.m. at the hospital. The 30-year-old man left

behind three children whose families said nothing will be the same. "Now my son doesn't have a father. I'm going to have to raise him all by myself. It's very painful," said Charnisse Greee, who has a child with the victim. Police said at this time they don't have any leads, but the community said that's why they are angry. They don't believe any type of investigation will actually occur because of the neighborhood the shooting happened in. "To them it don't matter, just another person gone, less for them to worry about," said the victim's friend, Kwmesia Simon. Neighbors said they're sick of the gun violence, but said it won't get better unless the police spend more time in their community focused on solving violent crime and putting those responsible behind bars. "You can't sit out in your own yard. It's dangerous. It's too dangerous," said resident Joetta Lindsay. FOX Carolina asked a police spokesman to respond to those claims. He said they simply ask for anyone with any leads on this case to come forward. Police said the suspects fled the scene in a vehicle after the shooting, but do not have a description at this time. Anyone with information that can help investigators identify the shooter is asked to call police at (864) 942-8631

March 25, 2013

Dispatchers said deputies were called to an armed robbery outside of a Greer Dollar General Store Monday morning. Spartanburg County deputies at the scene said two female employees were held at gunpoint and robbed outside of the store located on New Woodruff Road/Highway 101 about 7 a.m. Lt. Tony Ivey, with the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office, said the robber met the women at the front door as they were leaving to go make a deposit. Ivey said he forced them back inside the store at gunpoint, making them empty the safe then stole their deposit bags. Deputies said the robber fled towards Greer and Maple Street, but search dogs lost his track after searching for him. With the help of Greer police, deputies said they were still patrolling the area looking for the robber and talking to anyone who may have seen him. Ivey said the robber was reported wearing a dark coat over a white hoodie and jeans. Anyone with information about the robbery is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-888-CRIME-SC.

March 27, 2013

Former Simpsonville police officer George Ralph Bobo was arrested by agents from the State Law Enforcement Division on Tuesday. Bobo, 53, who is known to most people by his middle name, was charged with obstructing justice and misconduct in office. According to arrest warrants released by SLED, sometime between March 27, 2000, and Jan. 17, 2012, Bobo discarded or disposed of potential physical evidence collected during an ongoing homicide investigation. During a news conference Tuesday, 13th Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins said the warrants are in reference to an investigation into the Sept. 22, 1984, death of 20-year-old Cassandra Johnson, which is unsolved. Johnson's mother, Robbie Davis, said she felt betrayed by Bobo, that he even knew her daughter because they went to high school together. She said Bobo promised the family that he would do everything he could to bring them closure. Wilkins said it is now likely the case will never be able to move forward. "Now, we have a piece of material evidence that we no longer have that we can no longer test," Wilkins said. "And it ultimately taints a significant part of the case. Therefore, making it very difficult to pursue a potential suspect in this case." Bobo is well-known to the media in the Greenville area. He served as the public information officer at the Simpsonville Police Department for several years before resigning. According to Detective Ben Ford, spokesman for the Mauldin Police Department, Bobo served as a patrol officer at the department after leaving Simpsonville. Ford said Bobo abruptly resigned from that position the first week in February. Bobo's lawyer Jim Bannister said his client asserts his innocence. "He is and has been a good investigator for each of the different law enforcement agencies that's he's worked with," Bannister said. Bobo was released from the Greenville County Detention Center on \$60,000 bond. If convicted, Bobo faces up to 10 years in prison on each charge.

March 28, 2013

Police said a Greenwood woman kept her boyfriend from running after her by throwing his prosthetic legs in their front yard after she stabbed him. Greenwood police said the woman, 48-year-old Michelle Thomas, called 911 because she said her boyfriend tried to hit her, causing her to stab him in self-defense at their Hospital Street home on Monday, about 11:15 p.m. Thomas told police that she had returned home after buying her boyfriend cigarettes, tossed them to him and then he got up and hit her in the ear, according to the incident report. Thomas said she warned him she would stab him if he tried to hit her, and when he came swinging, she cut him on his hands with a kitchen knife, police said. FOX Carolina spoke with Thomas' boyfriend, Charles Covington, who said it all happened so fast. "She threw the cigarettes at me, and when she threw them, 'I said why you throw them at me,'" Covington said. "She got a knife, came at me and started stabbing at me. I put my hands up trying to block my face and my chest." When she realized she cut him, Thomas said she took off Covington's prosthetic leg and threw it out the front door along with his spare leg so he could not chase after her, police said. Officers tried to talk to Covington when they first arrived, but said he kept screaming, "She tried to kill me for no reason." He was then taken to the hospital to get treatment for his wounds, police said. When they talked to him at the hospital, he told police Thomas came home from hanging out with his friends and ran at him with the knife. Police said Covington put up his hands to shield his face when Thomas cut him, took off his leg then stabbed him in his thigh. The report stated officers found a lot of blood on the floor and the man had a few cuts on his hands along with the puncture wound to his thigh. Police said his injuries were consistent with self-defense, though Thomas had a knot on her head as well. Officers said they found Covington's two prosthetic legs in the front yard and returned them to him. Thomas was arrested and charged with criminal domestic violence of a high and aggravated nature. FOX Carolina tried to talk with Thomas, but she did not return any of our calls.

March 28, 2013

A Glendale man was sentenced to 45 years in prison Thursday after being convicted of a violent home invasion that happened two years ago. Gabriel Rios, 51, was found guilty of first-degree burglary, armed robbery, possession of a weapon during the commission of a violent crime, kidnapping and first-degree assault and battery. Prosecutors said that on Aug. 14, 2010, Rios broke into a woman's home. They said that when the woman heard glass breaking, she went to investigate. They said that when she confronted Rios, he grabbed the woman, held a piece of glass to her throat and demanded she open a safe. They said that when the woman could not open the safe, Rios forced her into a bedroom and used tape to tie her hands behind her back. Rios stole a handgun, \$200 from the woman's purse and her car, prosecutors said. Previously, Rios had been convicted of second-degree burglary, grand larceny, strong-arm robbery, resisting arrest and possession of cocaine. Rios must serve at least 80 percent of his sentenced before being eligible for parole.

March 29, 2013

The Greenville County Coroner's Office is investigating a Greenville man's death after his body was found between two abandoned buildings Friday morning. Coroner Barry Wright said 44-year-old Kevin Porter was found dead between the buildings along the 300 block of Stafford Street in the Dunean area. Deputies said they were called at 7:16 a.m. when the body was found at McGarity Street and Stafford. Wright said Porter died from a gunshot wound to the head. He said the case was being investigated as a homicide. Master Deputy Laura Campbell, of the Greenville County Sheriff's Office, said detectives are working to develop leads in the case. Anyone with information is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 23-CRIME (864-232-7463).

March 31, 2013

Newberry County deputies along with the coroner were investigating the death of a Prosperity man reported missing Saturday whose body was found a day later. Deputies said the body was found in a wooded area off of Maple Knoll Court in Prosperity about 11 a.m., which is located off SC Highway 391. Deputies later identified the body as Walter Tom Hawkins Jr., 56, of 126 Richburg Ln., who was missing since Friday evening. Sheriff Lee Foster told FOX Carolina the body was discovered a half mile away from Hawkins' residence. Investigators said there were indications of foul play, finding blood near Hawkins' home. They said he was last believed to be with his brother, 49-year-old Daryl Richburg, Friday night. State investigators' helicopter was brought in to assist in the investigation as they searched throughout the night for both men. Deputies said they believe Hawkins and Richburg got into a fight and alcohol was involved, leading to Hawkins' death. Deputies said Hawkins' family spotted Richburg Sunday morning near their home and detained him until police could arrive and arrest him. Investigators said that the family was instrumental in their cooperation and assistance in the case. Deputies charged Richburg with murder. He is being held at the county jail awaiting a bond hearing. Following an autopsy on Monday, Coroner Craig Newton said Hawkins was beaten to death resulting in a brain laceration.

